

At the Hour of Prayer

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"Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour" Acts 3:1

The ninth hour of three O'clock was the time for minchah or the afternoon sacrifice (of prayer). Here were these two very busy followers of the resurrected Lord going to the most critical appointment on their schedule. Nothing else took precedent over being in prayer and ministering to the Lord. We note even later in the text (ref. 6:3, 4, 7) the priority was to give themselves continually to prayer. It is a pattern we need to examine and locate in our life. Do we have an appointed, sacred, and carved out time of sacrificial prayer? A time of revealing and being revealed by the Holy Ghost through prayer.

In this hour of the church there is a sad lacking of genuine repentance and genuine prayer. To come, kneel and pray until we know we have touched and been touched by the Lord. Prayer takes time so we are dealing with bring out flesh under subjection to the will of God. In any relationship communication can become the number one problem unless there is a commitment to work on it. We are quick to say "I don't understand him or her or them." We blame "language" barriers between partners; parents and children and employer/employees as the reason relations break down. God nailed our excuses to the cross:

"For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us." Ephesians 2:14

God's desire for peace and unity sent Jesus to the cross so we could establish ourselves relationally to Him in Prayer. He'll give us the strategy for victory in every test or trial that comes against us. Now is the time for the Lord's Disciples to say "Lord, teach me to pray."

What is the Hour of Prayer? It is a space appointed in our life on a regular basis where can learn to listen to and for the voice of the Lord. It is a time that we move past the elementary prayer of desires being granted and flow into lamentation, supplication, intercession for cities, states and nations. As we mature in faith and prayer we can "Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." Acts 2:8

The hour of prayer will take you to a place called Gethsemane to learn to labor in prayer until complete surrender renders an answer.

STOP. Take time to Pray.

SAY: Lord, "Teach me to pray."

Watchman Nee, A Chinese Christian imprisoned for many years because of his faith in Christ reminded us in one of his writings:

"If a person has not first of all gone into the presence of God, he cannot come forth out of the presence of God with any message or service of value. If we have not stood in the presence of God as priest, all our wearing ourselves out, will only be a ministry to man and not to the Lord."

Where are you at the hour of prayer? More importantly, where are you at your appointed hour of prayer. To be able to see the greater works and men and women rise up healed and delivered requires a new and fresh level of hunger in your prayer time.

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The Word of the Lord Came Unto Me:

Tell the Saints of God across the Land to wash their hands, to wash their hands, to wash their hands. What a simple thing to do but its obedience that will take you through! What a simple thing to do you say. Why I quote Psalm 91 each day! The Children of Israel had Deuteronomy and Leviticus too instructing them in what to do to take them through. So listen again as I admonish you and your children too. Wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands.

After sharing this word with several people in other locations in the U.S. they confirmed that within the same time frame the Holy Spirit had quickened to them the necessity or importance of hand washing through the day. Then one other vessel of God made us aware of a new street drug with such a strong potency that even small residue on the skin caused burning and traces left on furniture, floors, phones could destroy human tissue and had caused much damage to small children. "He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit of the Lord is saying to the Church." Rev. 1:7

For what ever reason the Lord has sent the admonition let us take heed.