

Flood Gates: Holy Momentum for a Fearless Church

Sue Nilson Kibbey

Flood Gate #2 – Breakthrough Prayer Initiative

*“The well of God’s providence is deep.
It’s the buckets we bring to it that are small.”*

- Mary Webb (1881-1927)

Initial Reflection Questions:

Do you believe that prayer makes a difference?

“Prayer is not a normal part of the life of the natural man. We hear it said that a person’s life will suffer if he doesn’t pray, but I question that. What will suffer is the life of the Son of God in him, which is nourished not by food, but by prayer. When a person is born again from above, the life of the Son of God is born in him, and he can either starve or nourish that life. Prayer is the way that the life of God in us is nourished .”

– Oswald Chambers

Is our church(es) simply “snacking” on prayer or “feasting” on prayer?

How about you? Are you starving the life of Christ in you or are you feeding it?

What is your best estimate on what percentage of our congregation(s) are actively engaged in a prayer life?

Breakthrough Prayer Initiative: *“It is not just a prayer class, prayer committee, prayer meeting, or sermon series. It’s when God’s people join together in an intentional prayer movement across all ages to simply and repeatedly pray – either silently or aloud – asking God to break through in new and miraculous ways. ... The simple breakthrough prayer focus is for God’s Spirit to break through anything that holds us captive, so that we can boldly move forward and fulfill God’s intention for why we exist as Christ’s body, right now and beyond.”* (pg. 32-33)

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The Three Types of Breakthrough Prayer

➤ Threshold Prayer

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us” – Ephesians 3:20 NIV

“Threshold prayer isn’t advising God or instructing God for any particular outcome, since it’s not humanly clear what the best outcome or next step should be. Rather, it is simply, and repeatedly, presenting the current reality to God and asking for God to completely use and transform it for God’s miraculous use.” (pg. 35)

What might our church(es) or our community look like if we started to have regular prayer walks in the church, on its grounds, and through the community?

How would we get people in our church(es) involved? It needs to be more than one person doing this!

“Prayer is the continual, central, simple exercise of offering everything to the supernatural grace of God.”

➤ Archer’s Prayer – **“Breakthrough prayer with a target.”**

“Archer’s prayer happens when a church decides to specifically pray together on behalf of the need or hope, asking for breakthroughs that are impossible without God’s miraculous action, intervention, or direction. Archer’s prayer is not a silver bullet. It is not praying for specifically what you want with the expectation that God guarantees to deliver it exactly. Rather, it is asking that the arrows of your prayers break through to the target of God’s best desires in the matter.” (pg. 39)

What is the current, immediate need or goal of our church’s ministry?

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➤ Prevailing Prayer – World-changing impact without limits!

Every church lives out a unique central identity. What is the passion of your church or ministry?

“Prevailing prayer happens when a congregation or ministry (or individual) sees and utilizes everything as a platform to pray. Everything is a venue for prayer. And everyone feels called to personal prayer involvement as part of the whole. It becomes the church’s priority signature ministry above all else.” (pg. 43)

Re-read Pastor Evan’s story on pages 43 and 44. What **could** happen if more and more churches understood the simplicity of this kind of prayer and began to ask God to break through with new possibilities?

What would our church(es) and communities look like?

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From Prayer Sitting to Prayer Walking

Review the four stories shared in this chapter as examples of the Breakthrough Prayer Initiative:

- Pastor Nolan's story (pg. 35-38)
- Pastor Brenda's story (pg. 39-42)
- Pastor Evan's story (pg. 43-44)
- Pastor Larry's story (pg. 46-50)

Prayer Approaches

- Silent prayer vs. spoken prayer
- General prayer vs. specific prayer
- Touch vs. no-touch prayer
- Lights-on vs. lights-off prayer

“One of the most uncomplicated and immediate ways to unite a large segment of your congregation in a Breakthrough Prayer Initiative is through prayer walking, and it can be accomplished with a group of any size.”

What are your thoughts of utilizing the Breakthrough Prayer card, having everyone in the congregation pray a specific prayer at a certain time of day?

What easy-to-remember time could our church pick for this prayer?

Do some brainstorming. How else can we get our congregation involved in a breakthrough prayer initiative?

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Final Questions

1. Do you think this flood gate is currently closed at our church(es)?
2. If so, why? What is keeping the gate closed?
3. What steps can we make today to open this flood gate (or keep it open)?