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The Naz Prayer Ministry



Becoming a House of Prayer

Part 1: The starting point

Steve Martin once noted, “A day without sunshine is like – you know – night!” Duh!

While the obvious can sometimes surprise us, it can also force us to face the truth. For example, Ronald Reagan once observed, “I’ve noticed that everyone who is for abortion has already been born.”

But there is much in life that is not immediately obvious. Truth often requires us to look deeper, to see what has been covered in overlays of popular opinion and even convenient divergence. At other times, truths have layers that understood together provide fullness and richness that exceeds what appears to be obvious.

This expression “a house of prayer” presents us with just such a truth.

What seems immediately obvious, and commonly assumed, is that this is an admonition for the people of God to pray; more specifically, for the Body to be bound together in a commitment to the prominent place of prayer in life together.

To the Church come a variety of clarion calls. We are to be witnesses. We are challenged to be examples of integrity in the thoroughfares of life in the community. We are called to be people of vision and to take on challenges to make a difference in our world.

We tend to be fairly responsive to such appeals, because in our culture we are conditioned to be people of action, and such admonitions stimulate our expectation of something to do in response. We like being doers.

But the call to prayer, as much as we know it is right and necessary, is less eagerly embraced. How often have we as Christians mustered our energies and tried to take up the challenge to become men and women of prayer, only to find the latest program or formula that promised to lead us into a consistent and effective prayer life left us fizzling, our enthusiasm waning.

If we as a church are to become a house of prayer, we as individual members need a fresh starting point. Some of us may still be early in our walk of faith, and others may have journeyed far; yet the Spirit is calling us to an awakening that will frame our next step in this journey with a deeper and more intimate communion with God Himself through a vital lives of prayer, and especially prayer together.

Becoming a house of prayer begins with our willingness to set aside any measure of reluctance to move purposefully toward this calling, to repent of whatever degree of lethargy that has defined our prayer lives, and to embrace a fresh urgency to live out a life in which God’s own heart beats within us.

This is prayer. Prayer emerges from the nature of our relationship with God. As we are centered on the pursuit of His presence and live attentively to His promptings, prayer will flow from within us as naturally as the act of breathing.

But our call to become a house of prayer will take us even further, because in the end our walk with God is not so much about us as but about His heart and His passion.

Taking Our Next Step Together

Father, as You call us into a new day of commitment to be people of prayer, heighten our capacity to hear Your voice wooing us to Yourself. Remove any blindness to the vista of grace that awaits us in the warmth of Your embrace and the compelling pulse of Your heart that longs for us to discover the awe and wonder of Your grace and passion.

Give us hearts that hunger for your presence as a fresh starting point for us to become a house of prayer.