

*Poised for Harvest, Braced for Backlash*  
Lesson 19

**Exercise 1**

*A. Instructions*

Listen carefully to the following passages carefully and then discuss the questions that immediately follow each passage.

*Isaiah 56:6-7*

<sup>6</sup> And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to serve him, to love the name of the LORD, and to worship him, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant— <sup>7</sup>these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer.

*B. Discussion Question*

1. In Isaiah, what does God say that He will give us people in His house of prayer?

*1 Corinthians 3:16*

<sup>16</sup> Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

*C. Discussion Question*

1. When Jesus poured His Spirit into us, what happened? What did we become? Who lives in us?

*Hebrews 13:15*

<sup>15</sup> Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name.

*D. Discussion Question*

1. If we are the temple, and if the temple is the place of prayer, then what sacrifices need to continually come from our lips?

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

<sup>16</sup> Be joyful always; <sup>17</sup> pray continually; <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

*E. Discussion Question*

1. What does Paul say is God's will for us in Christ Jesus?

*Revelation 5:6-8*

<sup>6</sup> Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup> He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. <sup>8</sup> And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

### *B. Discussion Questions*

1. In Revelation 5:6-8 we learn that the 24 elders around God's throne in the heavens are holding harps. What are harps used for?
2. Harps are used to make music. The 24 elders are also holding bowls of incense before God. This incense represents the prayers of the saints. So in the heavens there is prayer mixed with music. Do you think that prayer becomes more enjoyable when mixed with music?
3. Do you long for deeper joy and encounter with God in the place of prayer?

### *C. Lesson*

As the people of God, we are not only called to be a clean and healed temple. We are also called to be a house of prayer, made up of living, breathing stones whose lips continually offer sacrifices of praise that honor Jesus' name. In Isaiah, we learn that the temple is the house of prayer. In the New Testament, Paul says that the people of God are the temple where God lives by His Spirit. If the temple is the house of prayer, and if we are now the temple is the people of God, then this means that we ourselves are the house of prayer! The church of Jesus is a house of prayer, and we are priests who called to "pray without ceasing." We are a living temple of prayer that will never cease to exist because of our inclusion in the resurrection of the righteous.

Though unceasing prayer requires effort and focus, through the grace of God it is not a burden. God promises us that as we regularly and wholeheartedly give ourselves to intimacy with him through prayer, he will meet us and fill our hearts with great joy and spiritual pleasures. The reason we have joy in prayer is because God Himself is enjoyable! He is not looking down on us with a big frown and an angry look on His face. He enjoys us as His children. He enjoys hearing our voices. He is our good Father. He enjoys us in prayer, and we enjoy God in prayer.

At the end of the age, the Bride's growth as a house of prayer will be more vital than ever. We will be called to stand pure, holy, and radiant in the face of an anti-Christ empire and a level of worldwide wickedness more vile than anything the world has ever seen. Jesus is zealous for the purity of his house. He is coming back for a fiery, praying, pure, and passionate Bride, not a dull, sleeping, unresponsive, and indifferent people.

If a church planting movement is to be of New Testament quality, it must also have a high vision for both individual and group prayer. The living stones of God's rapidly expanding house of prayer must actually pray together! In God's sight, a church planting movement is equivalent to a house-of-prayer planting movement. A church planting movement that does not value prayer highly is a temple that does not function as it should. The best way to ensure that a high vision for prayer is instilled in a movement from the beginning is to simply conduct prayer meetings, providing opportunities for the Holy Spirit to encounter new disciples and grip them with a hunger for prayer and closeness with Jesus.

For the rest of this lesson, we are going to learn the prayers that the apostles taught us to pray in the New Testament. We want to learn these to help us grow as a house of prayer. By praying the prayers that the apostles prayed, we know that our prayers are fully in agreement with the will of God. Knowing that we are praying God's will gives us more conviction, faith, and confidence as we pray.

## Exercise 2:

### A. Instructions

Repeat the following apostolic prayer over and over until it is deep in your heart.

#### *Ephesians 1:15-21*

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, <sup>20</sup> which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

### B. Prayer

Now, set aside time to pray this apostolic prayer together. Pray for the church in your nation. Pray for Jesus' disciples in the Muslim world. Take as long as you want.

If you think it would make your time of prayer more enjoyable, feel free to mix music in with the prayer. This is what the 24 elders do in the heavens! As we saw, the 24 elders mingle music with the prayers of the saints. Everyone enjoys good music! Of course, you do not have to mix music into your prayers. Follow the Holy Spirit's leadership. The important thing is that we learn to enjoy God in prayer. Sometimes instead of just shouting my prayers, I like to sing phrases from these apostolic prayers when I pray. At other times, I like to play the guitar when I pray these prayers. Our music does not have to be professional for God to enjoy it! All of us can make music! You can make music with your hands, or with spoons and forks, or with chop sticks! Follow the Holy Spirit's leadership, and you will grow in your enjoyment of prayer.

## Exercise 3

### A. Instructions

Repeat the following apostolic prayer over and over until it is deep in your heart.

#### *Ephesians 3:16-19*

<sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

### B. Prayer

Now, set aside time to pray this apostolic prayer together. Pray for the church in your nation. Pray for Jesus' disciples in the Muslim world. Take as long as you want.

If you think it would make your time of prayer more enjoyable, feel free to mix music in with the prayer. This is what the 24 elders do in the heavens! As we saw, the 24 elders mingle music with the prayers of the saints. Everyone enjoys good music! Of course, you do not have to mix music into your prayers. Follow the Holy Spirit's leadership. The important thing is that we learn to enjoy God in prayer. Sometimes instead of just shouting my prayers, I like to sing phrases from these apostolic prayers when I pray. At other times, I like to play the guitar when I pray these prayers. Our music does not have to be professional for God to enjoy it! All of us can make music! You can make music with your hands, or with spoons and forks, or with chop sticks! Follow the Holy Spirit's leadership, and you will grow in your enjoyment of prayer.

#### **Exercise 4**

##### *A. Instructions*

Repeat the following apostolic prayer over and over until it is deep in your heart.

##### *2 Thessalonians 3:1-5*

**3** Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. <sup>2</sup> And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith. <sup>3</sup> But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. <sup>4</sup> We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. <sup>5</sup> May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

##### *B. Prayer*

Now, set aside time to pray this apostolic prayer together. Pray for the lost people in your nation. Pray for the lost people in the Muslim world. Pray for the word of the Lord to run swiftly and be honored in the nations of the earth and in Israel. Take as long as you want.

If you think it would make your time of prayer more enjoyable, feel free to mix music in with the prayer. This is what the 24 elders do in the heavens! As we saw, the 24 elders mingle music with the prayers of the saints. Everyone enjoys good music! Of course, you do not have to mix music into your prayers. Follow the Holy Spirit's leadership. The important thing is that we learn to enjoy God in prayer. Sometimes instead of just shouting my prayers, I like to sing phrases from these apostolic prayers when I pray. At other times, I like to play the guitar when I pray these prayers. Our music does not have to be professional for God to enjoy it! All of us can make music! You can make music with your hands, or with spoons and forks, or with chop sticks! Follow the Holy Spirit's leadership, and you will grow in your enjoyment of prayer.

#### **Exercise 5**

##### *A. Instructions*

Repeat the following apostolic prayer over and over until it is deep in your heart.

##### *Acts 4:29-30*

<sup>29</sup> Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. <sup>30</sup> Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

### *B. Prayer*

Now, set aside time to pray this apostolic prayer together. Pray for the church in your nation. Pray for Jesus’ disciples in the Muslim world. Take as long as you want.

If you think it would make your time of prayer more enjoyable, feel free to mix music in with the prayer. This is what the 24 elders do in the heavens! As we saw, the 24 elders mingle music with the prayers of the saints. Everyone enjoys good music! Of course, you do not have to mix music into your prayers. Follow the Holy Spirit’s leadership. The important thing is that we learn to enjoy God in prayer. Sometimes instead of just shouting my prayers, I like to sing phrases from these apostolic prayers when I pray. At other times, I like to play the guitar when I pray these prayers. Our music does not have to be professional for God to enjoy it! All of us can make music! You can make music with your hands, or with spoons and forks, or with chop sticks! Follow the Holy Spirit’s leadership, and you will grow in your enjoyment of prayer.

## **Exercise 6**

### *A. Instructions*

Repeat the following apostolic prayer over and over until it is deep in your heart.

### *Romans 15:5-6*

<sup>5</sup> May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### *B. Prayer*

Now, set aside time to pray this apostolic prayer together. Pray for the church in your nation. Pray for Jesus’ disciples in the Muslim world. Take as long as you want.

If you think it would make your time of prayer more enjoyable, feel free to mix music in with the prayer. This is what the 24 elders do in the heavens! As we saw, the 24 elders mingle music with the prayers of the saints. Everyone enjoys good music! Of course, you do not have to mix music into your prayers. Follow the Holy Spirit’s leadership. The important thing is that we learn to enjoy God in prayer. Sometimes instead of just shouting my prayers, I like to sing phrases from these apostolic prayers when I pray. At other times, I like to play the guitar when I pray these prayers. Our music does not have to be professional for God to enjoy it! All of us can make music! You can make music with your hands, or with spoons and forks, or with chop sticks! Follow the Holy Spirit’s leadership, and you will grow in your enjoyment of prayer.

## **Exercise 7**

### *A. Instructions*

Repeat the following apostolic prayer over and over until it is deep in your heart.

*Romans 10:1*

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.

*B. Prayer*

Now, set aside time to pray this apostolic prayer together. Pray for the church in your nation. Pray for Jesus' disciples in the Muslim world. Take as long as you want.

If you think it would make your time of prayer more enjoyable, feel free to mix music in with the prayer. This is what the 24 elders do in the heavens! As we saw, the 24 elders mingle music with the prayers of the saints. Everyone enjoys good music! Of course, you do not have to mix music into your prayers. Follow the Holy Spirit's leadership. The important thing is that we learn to enjoy God in prayer. Sometimes instead of just shouting my prayers, I like to sing phrases from these apostolic prayers when I pray. At other times, I like to play the guitar when I pray these prayers. Our music does not have to be professional for God to enjoy it! All of us can make music! You can make music with your hands, or with spoons and forks, or with chop sticks! Follow the Holy Spirit's leadership, and you will grow in your enjoyment of prayer.