

**A HOUSE OF PRAYER!**

**(Mark 11:15-18)**

- 1. THE PRIORITY OF PRAYER.**
- 2. THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER.**
- 3. THE PROMISE OF PRAYER.**

**1. THE PRIORITY OF PRAYER.**

**1) God desires it.**

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thes. 5:16-17*

**2) Jesus demonstrates it.**

*And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. Mark 1:35*

**3) Life demands it.**

*And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer". Mark 9:28-29*

**Quote:** *"The feature that is supposed to distinguish Christian churches, Christian people and Christian gatherings is the aroma of prayer. Preaching, music and the reading of God's Word are all fine, but they must never override prayer as the defining mark of God's dwelling. The honest truth is that I have seen God do more in people's lives during 10 minutes of real prayer than 10 of my sermons. Have you noticed the church was born (at Pentecost) not when someone was preaching but when someone was praying? What does it say about our churches today that God birthed the church during a prayer meeting and prayer meetings today are almost extinct?" Jim Cymbala*

**2. THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER.**

**1) The access to the throne.**

*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:12*

**2) The attitude of the heart.**

*Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. James 4:8-10*

### **3) The alignment with God's Word.**

*And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. I John 5:14*

### **4) The appeal to persist.**

*Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me for I was left there with the kings of Persia." Daniel 10:12-13*

### **3. THE PROMISE OF PRAYER.**

*The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16 (KJV)*

**Quote:** *"What the church needs today is not more or better machinery, nor new organizations nor more novel methods. She needs men whom the Holy Spirit can use, men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Spirit does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not anoint plans, but men of prayer." E. M. Bounds*