



Sharing

## Elijah Prayer Discipleship School

Becoming an instrument of prayer

[www.buildingfathershouse.org](http://www.buildingfathershouse.org)

### Building Fathers House

A Dwelling Place for God by the Spirit

*(Discipleship=doing the will of God walking in submission to the authority of God so that you can become an instrument of authority)*

## Workshop no. 22 : "Prayer evangelism" - A strategy for prayer part one - My Fathers House is a House of prayer.

**Haggai 1:7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.**

**Purpose of this workshop:** To consider God's plan for His House as a House of Prayer, a intimate relationship with our Father in Heaven.

**Intended Goal:** To encourage the believer to put their trust in God as our Father in Heaven.

### Scripture readings :

***Ephesians 2:10*** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

***Matthews 16:17-19*** And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, **That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.** And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

***1Kings 8:29*** That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.

***Isaiah 56:7*** Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; **for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.**

**Mark 11:17** And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, **My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer?** but ye have made it a den of thieves.

**Luke 19:45-46** And he went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold therein, and them that bought; Saying unto them, **It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves.**

**John 1:12-13** But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

**James 4:3** Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

**Ezekiel 34:8** As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock;

**Ezekiel 34:22-24** Therefore will **I save my flock, and they shall no more be a prey;** and I will judge between cattle and cattle. **And I will set up one shepherd over them,** and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd. And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it.

**John 10:11-14** **I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.** But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. **I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.**

**John 21:15-17** So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. **He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.** He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.** He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.**

**1Peter 5:1-4** The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the **chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.**

## Food for thought :

In considering **God's strategy or purpose for prayer** we need first to acknowledge that prayer is not a means of convincing God to go our way, **but prayer have been given to us by God so that we can be convinced by God to go His way.**

In Ephesians 2:10 it is stated that we have been **recreated in Christ Jesus to enable us to do God's will.** In Christ Jesus we have been redeemed back into a living relationship with our Father in Heaven, so that we can hear the will of our Father. Not being separated from God but redeemed, that is the gift of salvation. *Revelation 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;*

In *1 John 1:1-3 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.* John explained in detail the reason for telling people concerning the Word of life, which is Jesus Christ. So that all who receive Him can come into the fellowship with Jesus and with our Father in Heaven. **The Hebrew word of fellowship is (deveykus) which means to be in contact, in partnership or being attached/cleave to God.** Fellowship with God is to attach ourselves to God in such a way that we walk in obedience to our Father in Heaven.

In Haggai 1:5 God said, consider your ways. It is not as much a question of doing, as it is a question of the way we are doing things. If things go not according to our understanding we should consider our ways. **It is not so much what we are doing but the way we are doing it!**

Consider two farmers, on the one farm there is a good yield of crops, on the other farm the yield is low in comparison. If we investigate, we will find it is not the activity (farming) that is wrong on the one farm, it is more likely the way of farming. It is not what they do, both are farming, it is the way the one is farming that allow him to produce a better crops. Likewise in our church activity today, we do all the right things, but if we consider the fruit of our labour, it looks as if the fruit is not consistent with the labour. There are thousands of pastors, evangelist and missionaries proclaiming the Good News of Salvation, but in considering the harvest we must acknowledge that there is something wrong.

It is not what we do, but the way we are doing it. God said you are all running for your own houses, while My House is in ruins. **MY HOUSE IS A HOUSE OF PRAYER - IN MY HOUSE WE/ I WILL CALL THE STRANGERS AND FILL THEM WITH JOY.** God says if you build MY HOUSE, which is called a house of prayer then I will call the people unto Myself. But we run each after our own houses, building our own church, but calling it the house of God. We want to show ourselves approved and want to call the people unto God, and for that we also want to receive some acknowledgement - my church. Remember its not about us, its all about God and His Church.

If we start saying that we are pastors shepherding the sheep of God, then the responsibility is God's. He will send us His sheep, as we prove ourselves worthy to look after His sheep (disciple according to His guidance). But if we want to look after our own sheep we WILL have to gather our own sheep.

In considering the shepherds field in the Old Testament, we see different shepherds looking after the sheep. Likewise if we can acknowledge that our Fathers House is called A HOUSE OF PRAYER for all nations, then we will see the glory of God manifesting within His Church as we gather together in our Fathers house, giving Him the glory due.

Consider John 20:29 "blessed are those who have not seen yet have believed" God wants us to trust in Him more than we trust in what we see. Prayer is our act of faith, trusting not in what we see but in God, **waiting on Him to do what only He can do.** *Matthews 9:37-38 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore **the Lord of the harvest**, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.* THE LORD OF THE HARVEST - God is the only one WHO can bring in the HARVEST, the labourers is labouring on their knees. The persecuted church in China, when praying, they first pray for more labourer to pray unto God who can do what they cannot do.

Building our Fathers house is based on where we put our trust. Jesus said a wise man dig until he find the rock and then build upon that rock. The rock is the knowledge of Christ, **we cannot build on any other foundation than on trusting God in the knowledge of who He is.** It is our ways not what we are doing. God took Moses up to the mountain and Moses said to people wash yourselves everyday but the people considered the inability of man, instead of looking at the ability of God. They made for themselves a god to take them out of the dessert for they believed that Moses must have already died since he has been gone for such a long time. Likewise we want to build on the account of what we can see so that we can say we have made it. As children of God, we should not trust things to call people in!!! (worship team, furniture, programs etc.) We must trust in God, and in Him only!

Prayer is a tool to be used by God to convince us to go God's way, not to be used by us to convince God to go our way.

If we start praying together to do according to God's will, every church will be filled to the glory of God and not of man. It's a PARTNERSHIP, Jesus said to Peter throw your net out on the other side. Peter said that they have worked all night but did not catch anything, but on the Word of Christ he will go. God filled their nets and they had to call in the others boats to assist in the catch, for it was too big for one boat to handle. Likewise, if we are prepared to put our trust in God and go out in obedience, we will not be able to handle the catch. If we PARTNERSHIP with God we will have to call others to help, our problem is that WE WANT GOD TO PARTNER WITH US INSTEAD OF US WITH HIM.

In the natural, a father longs for his children to ask him how they can help him. GOD IS WAITING FOR US!

LET US CONSIDER OUR WAYS!

## True stories :

### Testimony: Malawi

As a missionary I was waiting on God to show me His way forward as I felt that the current task I received is finished. God showed me a vision of stairs I needed to climb, every stair had its own scripture. The last stair was the Word in *James 2:14* *What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?* Then on the top of the stairs I found a spear and as I took the spear and threw it, it landed in Malawi, near lake Chiuta. I knew that God called me to go to Malawi, but that I need to go in faith (Free Adventure In Trusting Him). The testimony is this, as I left for Malawi my old landrover made a funny noise in the engine. As I lay my hands on the dash "saying unto The Lord that He called me on this mission" the engine quiet down. Making the same noise after about 40 km. I continued to pray, and the Landrover continued to go. The first thing that happened is that The Lord provided petrol for the journey and that was only as I reached the border of Mozambique. The engine still had the noise every now and then. When I reached a mission base in Mozambique I told the missionary there, who used to be an engineer, about the noise the engine made. He suggested that we open the tapped cover to see. We found the rocker arm to be loose, and it is totally impossible for the car to drive with the rocker arm in that state. We praise God for He is good. I we walk in obedience to God, nothing is impossible, for whatever seems impossible for us is possible for God.

TRUSTING GOD, Yong Chi Chow.

Yong Chi Chow, pastor the biggest church in the world. But it all started not based on his inability but on the ability of God. After God healed him from a terminal disease Yong Chi Chow committed himself to serve God. He felt to start a church, but as he did not know how and he turned to God. God said that he must start by praying, and through his obedient prayer the Lord added to the church. The church grew to be the biggest church in the world, because He trusted God and not himself.

DO WE TRUST GOD OR THE THINGS WE DO!!!

*1Kings 19:9-16 And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah? And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. And the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.*

## **God's authority :**

**Exodus 30:36** *And thou shalt beat some of it very small, and put of it before the testimony in the tabernacle of the congregation, where I will meet with thee: it shall be unto you most holy.*

**Exodus 25:9** *According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.*

**Exodus 25:40** *And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount.*

**Numbers 8:4** *And this work of the candlestick was of beaten gold, unto the shaft thereof, unto the flowers thereof, was beaten work: according unto the pattern which the LORD had shewed Moses, so he made the candlestick.*

**Joshua 22:26-28** *Therefore we said, Let us now prepare to build us an altar, not for burnt offering, nor for sacrifice: **But that it may be a witness between us, and you, and our generations after us, that we might do the service of the LORD before him with our burnt offerings, and with our sacrifices, and with our peace offerings; that your children may not say to our children in time to come, Ye have no part in the LORD.** Therefore said we, that it shall be, when they should so say to us or to our generations in time to come, that we may say again, **Behold the pattern of the altar of the LORD, which our fathers made, not for burnt offerings, nor for sacrifices; but it is a witness between us and you.***

**1Chronicle 28:11-12** *Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasuries thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlours thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat, And the pattern of all that he had by the spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, and of all the chambers round about, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries of the dedicated things:*

**Ezekiel 43:10-11** *Thou son of man, shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern. And if they be ashamed of all that they have done, shew them the form of the house, and the fashion thereof, and the goings out thereof, and the comings in thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the laws thereof: and write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them.*

**1Timothy 1:16** *Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.*

**Hebrews 8:5** *Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.*

## Conclusion :

In considering God's strategy for prayer, knowing it's not about us, it is all about God. We must conclude that God's strategy for prayer was for us to be attached to Him in order to walk in obedience to His perfect will for us.

Jesus said not My will but Thine will be done as He surrendered in obedience to His Father's will. The Bible also says that Jesus being the Son of God learnt obedience through His suffering, it is in His obedient surrender that the final victory was achieved. Now in Christ Jesus we are called to *Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

The tabernacle was a pattern (strategy) that God gave to Moses, so that Moses and the people of God could come into God's perfect will as they hear from God. They and Moses however were still given the free will to obey or not! In fear of God and in the knowledge of who God is, Moses chose to obey when God said he will not enter the promised land. Likewise we have been called into a relationship with our Father in heaven with the purpose to bring us into obedience to God's perfect will for us.

Our Father's House is called a House of Prayer by His own Word. As we enter into our Father's House we are drawn into an intimate relationship where we can attach ourselves to our Father in the name of His Son Jesus Christ. The heavenly pattern was given to us so that we can come to the knowledge of God as our Father in Heaven. A pattern designed to draw us into obedience. So that we can be filled with joy as we know that we walk not according to our own lust but in the perfect will of God.

Jesus came to show us the NT pattern (*Hebrews 9:11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;*) as a living way unto God, the truth concerning who God is in order to follow in obedience so that we could enter into life, life in abundance! Tit 1:2 In the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before the world began; and Jesus said *John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

The pattern God gave unto Moses was a heavenly pattern, a pattern by which God could manifest Himself so that we could meet Him. A pattern that could hold the Holiness of God in an unholy world. We must be reminded that it was God's purpose from the beginning to be in communion with His creation. However God being Holy could not stay in the presence of His creation in its unholiness. The tabernacle presented a pattern by which Moses and the high priest could enter into the very presence of God, the Holy of Holies, where God said that He will meet with them in order to give them divine guidance, God's plan for His people.

When we obey God and come into His presence we receive everything we need. God commanded the following to be put in the ark of the covenant: the manna = divine provision, the staff of Aaron = divine authority and the Law = divine guidance. In the presence of God (as we attach ourselves to God) we are all sufficient.

The pattern is thus the strategy for intimacy with God. *Hebrews 8:6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was*

*established upon better promises.* Thus we as the body of Christ build together a dwelling place for God in the Spirit, a house called a House of Prayer. When Jesus enter the temple He said what are you doing with My Fathers House, His house is called a House of Prayer for all nations. Jesus said that if they break it down He will rebuild it in 3 days, referring to His body. He said it as evidence of His authority to talk about His Fathers House. Jesus came to establish His Fathers House as a House of Prayer for all nations.

**CONSIDER YOUR WAYS, are we still running after our own houses or are we building our Fathers House in the Spirit and in the knowledge of Christ Jesus in the unity of FAITH!**

**Questions to be answered :**

1. What is the strategy for prayer?
2. What is the true meaning of fellowship with God?
3. What is the meaning of prayer?
4. Who is the laborers we need to call for?
5. Explain the reason for the pattern of the tabernacle of Moses?
6. What is God's house called and who are called to build it?