

WHAT IS THE HOUSE OF PRAYER?

Our desire is to set apart a place where we can host the presence of the Lord through the combination of prayer and worship. Unceasing ministry to the Lord is the both the vision and centerpiece for all we do and serves as the platform for unity, spiritual authority and diversity in all activities. The house of prayer ministry at Greenhouse is committed to sustaining and growing a community of contending prayer and worship in Gainesville that serves as a home base of operations, outreach and missions.

Jesus said, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer...'- Matthew 21:13.

Jesus was actually quoting Isaiah the prophet who prophesied about the Lord's house of prayer nearly 720 years prior.

THE HOUSE OF PRAYER SERVES AS A MIRROR OF:

- His Presence – The Church, as His people and body, do now stand as an expression of His presence through our union to Him and the deposit of His Spirit within us.
- Heavenly Worship – Night & Day prayer serves as a replication of worship on the earth as it is in Heaven. The heavenly order of worship is continual, musical, and God-centered (Rev. 4:8; 5:8–9; 14:2; 15:2). God-centered worship focuses on God, His personality and actions.

THE HOUSE OF PRAYER SERVES AS A SIGN OF:

- Perpetual Intercession: A sign towards injustice
 - Night and day intercession is a sign of an **incessant protest** that things are not the way they should be. Therefore, the saints, through intercession draw attention to the hope when wrong things are made right.
 - Jesus taught a parable on persistent and continual prayer for justice until He returns (**Lk. 18:1-8**).
 - ***Men always ought to pray and not lose heart (v.1)... 7 "And will not God give justice to His elect who cry to Him day and night? Will he delay long over them? 8 I tell you, He will give justice to them speedily to them. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?" – Luke 18:1, 7-8.***

- Incessant worship: A sign of the worth of Christ
 - Unceasing worship is a sign of the matchless glory and worth of Jesus to both the Church and the nations of the earth.
 - Night and day worship and prayer stands as a provocation to God's people to cease from loving what is worthless and behold what is precious and infinitely worthy of devotion in Christ.
 - ***How long, O sons of men, will you turn my glory to shame? How long will you love worthlessness and seek falsehood? Selah – Psalm 4:2.***
 - ***The glory of God necessitates unceasing devotion.***

THE HOUSE OF PRAYER SERVES AS A CATALYST

- The constancy of the house of prayer serves as a catalyst for the entire body of Christ to enter into sober, fervent, and vigilant prayer.
- Not all believers are called into full-time ministry as a vocation but all disciples are called to watchfulness and devoted prayer. Watchfulness simply means to discern the times and seasons that we are living in through the lens of Scripture.
 - ***"Watch therefore, and pray always..." – Luke 21:36***
 - ***"Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time (2nd Coming) is. – Mark 13:33***
 - ***"Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming... 37 And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!" – Mark 13:35, 37***

THE HOUSE OF PRAYER SERVES AS A PLACE OF DIVERSITY AND JOY

- This is great news, considering the racial hostility and divide historically and currently in our land. The house of prayer is a place of diversity where all people, regardless of skin tone or background, are welcome to worship Jesus in the beauty of holiness. It is in this type of atmosphere where every tribe, tongue and nation can find pure joy and unity.
 - ***Even them (Gentiles) I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations (all people groups). – Isaiah 56:7.***

THE HOUSE OF PRAYER (CHURCH) AND MISSIONS

- In the book of Acts, the early church demonstrated a lifestyle of prayer and missions in the context of local church life. The centerpiece of their activity was prayer, and the outflow was strong community and mission.
- Acts begins with the disciples of Jesus waiting on the Lord in prayer **(1:14)** before the Holy Spirit was poured out in power, and many were born again **(2:41)**.
- It was the way they functioned on a continual basis--gathering together corporately to encounter and minister to God, and then Christ-centered community formed and many were born-again.

***So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."* - Acts 2:46,47**

- The leaders of the early church modeled this culture.

***"As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away."* - Acts 13:2,3**

- Jesus affirmed the reality of prayer preceding mission by commissioning His disciples to pray.

***"Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."* - Matthew 9:38**

- Our role in the Great Commission is first and foremost the Great Commandment--loving Jesus with all our heart. We focus our hearts on agreement with the great Evangelist in prayer, followed by partnership and obedience in works of justice with the One who is anointed to bring justice to the nations.