

PUBLIC PRAYER

Matthew 18:19-20

(Brief outline, add own comments)

Introduction: Prayer is something that every believer does in some form at some time or other. What about praying in public? What's the difference in private and public prayer?

1. People are told to pray in secret and God will answer openly (*Matthew 6:6*)
2. Now believers are told to pray together, therefore publicly, why the change?
3. The Lord's Prayer says: "*...OUR Father...*"
4. Ever hear of a family that always meets their own personal father one by one in secret? They never get together to express their wants?
5. Believers are a FAMILY.
6. The full power of the Holy Spirit on a Church family depends upon the union and co-operation of all.
7. How did the 120 come together in the upper room, all of one accord?
8. Public prayer is powerful when:
 - all are in agreement.
 - all recognize the name and presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - all believe that God will hear and answer their prayer.
9. What would happen if:
 - friends believed what mighty help they could give each other in prayer?
 - every prayer meeting everyone was of one mind and recognized the presence of Jesus and believed that God would answer their prayers?
 - prayer was regarded as one of the main reasons the church comes together?
10. Paul says: *Romans 15:30; 2 Corinthians 1:11; Ephesians 1:15; Philippians 1:19; Colossians 4:3; 2 Thessalonians 3:1*
11. Who can say what God could do with THIS (our) church if we gave ourselves to the work of prayer day and night for:
 - the coming Kingdom.
 - God's power to be on His servants.
 - God's power to be in His Word.
 - God to be glorified in the saving of souls.
12. God rules this world by the prayers of His children.
 - Prayer is the power that conquers Satan.
 - By prayer the Church on earth as at its disposal all the powers of heaven.
13. Let us pray that God would remove all self-interest and all that would hinder our being united.