

# Session 10: Building an Eternal Purpose House of Prayer

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## I. A Totally New Approach

As we come to the conclusion of this class, it is my hope that you have enjoyed it and are committed to praying for the fulfillment of God's eternal purposes. In addition, if you are a pastor or one who has the opportunity to lead a people into eternal purpose prayer, one of my primary purposes in writing this class is to help you begin an eternal purpose house of prayer. Thus, the primary purpose of this session—to help those wanting to build an eternal purpose house of prayer to establish a plan for building and leading a group focused on praying into God's eternal purpose. With that as our objective, let's get started.

### 1. Make sure you understand that we are not speaking about a building or physical structure of any sort.

- a. As we begin, we will repeat a point we made in a prior session. When we speak of an eternal purpose *house* of prayer, some might think that we are speaking about a building or a dedicated area set apart solely for a house of prayer. We realize that some have built structures devoted totally to prayer. This is great for those who have been able to do this. But this is not necessary. We are not speaking of a structure devoted totally to eternal purpose prayer. Instead, we are speaking of a ministry function. When we speak of building a house of prayer, we are referring to building a ministry in the spirit in which people can offer prayers into God's eternal purposes.

### 2. An eternal purpose house of prayer will require a new wineskin.

- a. Jesus spoke these familiar words,

And He was also telling them a parable: "No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and puts it on an old garment; otherwise he will both tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled out, and the skins will be ruined. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one, after drinking old wine wishes for new; for he says, 'The old is good enough'" (Lk. 5:36-39).

- b. There are three very important points about an eternal purpose house of prayer that we can draw from this parable. If we are going to be successful in building a prayer ministry focused on God's eternal purpose, we must be committed to these three points.
- c. First, praying into God's eternal purpose will require a totally new wineskin for prayer. For most who desire to build a prayer ministry focused on God's eternal purpose, the people who will be a part of it will have very little, if any, insight into what is involved in such a ministry. It will be a totally new approach to prayer for them. Because of this reality, those who desire to build such a ministry must be determined to see it become a reality.
- d. Second, the old is not good enough. Many in your church or ministry will think along the lines of "I have been praying the way I have for 30 years. Therefore, my old way is good enough." The truth is that the old way we have been praying is not good enough. It is not that old forms of prayer are wrong. Mostly, they are not. At the same time, they are not sufficient for what God is requiring of

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His church in the end times. Therefore, we must be committed to building a new wineskin for prayer and to communicate to those we lead that the old way is not sufficient in these days.

- e. Third, just as one cannot patch a new piece of clothe on an old garment, we cannot just patch eternal purpose prayer onto our old way of praying. As we gather for times of prayer, we cannot pray our old way for the majority of the time and then throw up an eternal purpose prayer at the end of the session. This will not be good enough. Again, we must be committed to building an entirely new wineskin for prayer.

## 3. The testimony of our church will explain the need for commitment to build a proper wineskin.

- a. In Session 1, I shared a lot of what I share here. Even so, it will be helpful to revisit it again briefly. As I indicated earlier, Terry Bennett ministered at our church for the first time in 2015. In the Saturday morning meeting, an angelic being entered the room bringing a summons from the throne directed to our local church to go before the golden altar. As Terry elaborated upon the summons, we knew that it was related to Revelation 8, and we knew that it was related to intense and focused prayer. But that was about all we knew at that point.
- b. After the weekend conference ended, we were all confused as to what the summons meant and what we should do about it. I knew and many in our church knew that the summons was a very serious call and that we had no choice but to respond to it. Even though we recognized the seriousness of the mandate to us, we were all confused as to what it meant in a practical way. People would ask questions like, “Can I still pray like I used to pray?”, “Do I have to completely change the way I pray?”, “Can I pray for my personal needs any longer?”
- c. For me, it was a challenging time because I didn’t really know the answers to their questions. I began to study the golden altar and ask the Lord what He was saying. He slowly unveiled direction to us. When God began to teach us about eternal purpose, we finally found the secret key to effective prayer that would ascend to the golden altar. Finally, several years later, I believe we have a solid understanding about what is involved in prayer that will ascend to the golden altar.
- d. The point for sharing our testimony with you here is to say that as you attempt to build a new wineskin for eternal purpose prayer, you most likely will get some of the same questions. It will be important that you get a solid understanding of what is involved in eternal purpose prayer and the need to fill the golden bowls of incense that stand before the heavenly golden altar. It will also be important for you to methodically, consistently, and thoroughly teach your church the principles of God’s eternal purpose, eternal purpose prayer, and related topics like the bride making herself ready, the manchild, and the end of the age, etc.
- e. My encouragement to you is to be patient, consistent, and determined. You will not be able to build the new wineskin that is needed without a deep and prolonged commitment to it because an eternal purpose house of prayer will be a new wineskin for your church.
- f. Let’ now look at a few things that we recommend you do before beginning to meet as a house of prayer.

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## II. Before Beginning a House of Prayer

1. Before you actually begin an eternal purpose house of prayer, it will be important to prepare.
  - a. In my opinion, there are two ditches on the road to building an eternal purpose house of prayer. One ditch is to announce the summons to the golden altar and then begin to pray immediately. This will lead to much confusion. The other ditch is to wait until you have full knowledge of everything to begin. You will learn a lot by beginning and learning as you go. You will know the balance of when to learn and when to start. To help you get started, the following points from our experience should be helpful.
2. Gain understanding of God's eternal purpose and of the types of prayers that facilitate God's eternal purpose.
  - a. When we first began to pray eternal purpose prayer, we referred to it as golden altar prayer. In the beginning, we had very little understanding of God's eternal purpose. Over the years since receiving the summons, God has taught us many things about His eternal purpose. Understanding eternal purpose has given us a big target into which we can now pray.
  - b. This class and several other Lifeschool classes focus on issues related to God's eternal purpose classes such as *The Eternal Blueprint*, *The Eternal Purpose Church*, *Understanding the Forerunner Call*, *Theology of the Bride*, and *Understanding the End Times* are all helpful. For example, *The Eternal Blueprint* provides a vision of God's eternal purpose describing what it is, how it came about, and the various concepts that it entails. *The Eternal Purpose Church* is a companion class that addresses the subject of building a church based on God's eternal purpose. Both of these classes and the others too provide much insight into God's eternal purpose and as such, provide an excellent foundation for learning what types of eternal purpose prayers need to be offered.
  - c. As the person responsible for building an eternal purpose house of prayer and leading the prayer sessions, I recommend that before you begin holding actual sessions you get familiar with the following topics. Of course, your understanding of all of them will grow over time. So, don't wait until you have full knowledge of them all. But a beginning understanding will be very helpful. The five topics are:

### The five aspects of eternal purpose

- d. The Lifeschool class, *The Eternal Blueprint*, highlights five key aspects of God's eternal purpose (they are also summarized in Session 2 of this class). They are: 1) Christ is the center of God's thought and plans and preeminent in all things, 2) God's eternal purpose is for the Father to have a family of mature sons to be His eternal representatives throughout the eternal ages, 3) Christ is to have a prepared bride to be the eternal wife of the Lamb and to partner with Christ forever, 4) the Holy Spirit is to have a temple in which He can dwell in fullness, and 5) believers are to receive eternal rewards of eternal intimacy with Christ, eternal glory, and eternal authority. In a general sense, these five aspects of God's eternal purpose are what the Godhead is working toward in the church age and, thereby, form the overriding objectives of our prayer focus. Knowledge of these objectives

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become the foundation of eternal purpose prayer and are topics that prayer leaders must have a basic understanding.

## The four prayer themes presented in this class that flow from God's eternal purpose

- e. In addition to gaining an understanding of God's eternal purpose, it is also important to get a solid understanding of the four prayer themes we highlighted in this class and an understanding of how they fit into eternal purpose prayer. As you will recall, Sessions 3-6 of this class provide an overview of four prayer themes to be included in an eternal purpose house of prayer. As a way of reminder, they are: 1) praying for the corporate man to arise in fullness, 2) resisting the great harlot, 3) restraining the spirit of antichrist, and 4) praying for Israel. Each of these themes offer specific prayer direction for eternal purpose prayer. It is very important to know these themes and be able to articulate and pray into issues about them.

## The issues that will conclude the church age

- f. It is also very helpful to have understanding of the issues that will culminate in the second coming of Christ. Therefore, end-time Issues like the coming forth in fullness of the manchild of Revelation 12; how the bride is made ready; the rise of the harlot and the spirit of antichrist; and issues such as these become important issues that flow into eternal purpose prayer. As such, a basic understanding of end-time topics is very helpful in understanding the types of prayer that will fill the incense bowls.

## A clear understanding of the theology of the bride

- g. A moment ago, we touched briefly on the need to understand the bride being made ready. It is one thing to understand that the bride must make herself ready before the Lord returns, but it is another to have insight into the specifics of all that is involved in the bride making herself ready. The bridal parables of Jesus, Revelation 2-3, and Old Testament types and shadows such as the books of Esther, Ruth, and Song of Songs offer much insight into specifics of bridal theology and are helpful to empower prayer leaders for praying into God's eternal purpose. Again, it will take a lifetime to fully understand bridal theology fully; nonetheless, it is important to get a basic understanding.

## An understanding of the arising of overcoming sons

- h. Just as gaining understanding of bridal theology is important, getting understanding of the arising of overcoming sons is also important. The class, *The Eternal Blueprint*, delves into Roman adoption practices during the New Testament era. As the class informs, the maturing of the body of Christ so as to become mature sons for the heavenly Father tracks closely with the Roman adoption practices of that time period. Understanding these practices is helpful to grasp the need for mature sons to arise as an inheritance for the heavenly Father, and are helpful in praying into the Father having a family of mature sons as an eternal inheritance.
- i. Please note: I am not trying to overwhelm you with the need for knowledge that you must gain in order to begin an eternal purpose house of prayer. Getting detail knowledge of all of the above topics will take us all a lifetime. I am merely offering a list of topics that will help you grow as one who leads an eternal purpose house of prayer. However, I am also saying DON'T WAIT UNTIL TO YOU HAVE MASTERED ALL OF THE ABOVE TO GET STARTED. GET A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF AT LEAST SOME OF THESE AND BEGIN!

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## 3. Teach those who will participate in the house of prayer these same topics.

- a. We have made the point that you as the prayer leader getting knowledge of God's eternal purpose and the variety of topics and prayer issues involved in eternal purpose is very helpful in increasing effectiveness in praying into God's eternal purposes. The more we know about the variety of issues, the more effective our prayers can be. Therefore, knowledge of the same topics we mentioned in the previous section are very helpful not only for the prayer leader to understand but also for everyone who will be participating in the house of prayer.
- b. Therefore, it is important for leadership to not only learn about all these issues themselves but to teach them to those who will participate in the house of prayer. That is, it is important that leaders impart their knowledge to those who will join them in the house of prayer.

## 4. In addition to learning and teaching on the topics and themes involved in an eternal house of prayer, we should understand and explain the importance of praying into God's eternal purpose.

- a. In order to persevere in leading a house of prayer focused on God's eternal purpose, prayer leaders must be committed to this very important end-time task. As we stated in Session 1, there are at least four primary tasks that must be accomplished before the Lord returns. Repeating what we stated in Session 1, they are:
  - 1. The bride must make herself ready by clothing herself with bridal garments (Rev. 19:7).
  - 2. The corporate man-child of Revelation 12 must emerge in the earth in fullness.
  - 3. The gospel of the kingdom must be preached throughout the earth (Mt. 24:14).
  - 4. The golden incense bowls at the heavenly golden altar must be filled with the prayers of the saints (Rev. 5:8; Rev. 8:1-5).
- b. It is very important that those desiring to build an eternal purpose house of prayer have an inward witness in their heart that all four of these tasks must be accomplished before the Lord returns, and they must have a deep commitment in their heart that filling the golden bowls of incense is a necessary task to activate the Lord's second coming.
- c. It is equally important that prayer leaders be convinced that they have been summoned to the golden altar. They must understand that even though the angelic being came to a meeting at Restoration Life Church with the summons to the golden altar, the summons was not just for Restoration Life. Moreover, it is for all called as forerunners. It is a summons to the global forerunner company of believers and churches, and it is a call to you as a forerunner. This fact must be deeply imbedded in the hearts of pastors and prayer leaders around the world.
- d. An additional aspect of understanding the summons to the golden altar is that this summons and this approach to prayer is more important to God than praying for the needs of individuals and the issues facing the local church. Those needs are important, but eternal purpose more so. Remember

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that God's eternal purpose and thought is rooted in the good pleasure of the Godhead more so than in the needs of man. Even though God is a compassionate God and cares greatly for the needs of man to be met, His eternal purpose is for the purpose of Him having His full inheritance. Those who will build an eternal purpose house of prayer must understand this vital truth and be committed to getting the Lord what He wants.

- e. One more point under this heading. Forerunners must understand that this approach to prayer is an absolutely necessary function of those called as forerunners. Forerunners must be a people of prayer, and the type prayer they must pray are prayers that fill the golden incense bowls before the heavenly golden altar—that is, eternal purpose prayer!

## 5. Take seriously the summons to the golden altar.

- a. I shared previously about how our church received a summons to the golden altar in Session 1. In the encounter at our church, there was a deep sensing of the holiness of the Lord in the room. We knew without any doubt that God was speaking, that His summons was serious, and was something that we needed to take very seriously. Like I said, at the time we did not have much insight into what the summons really meant or what golden altar prayer even was; but we knew God was very serious in His summons.
- b. Even though for most who will read this, you won't have the type of encounter we had. Nonetheless, we believe very strongly that because we are called as forerunners to prepare a people for the Lord in these end times, we are to multiply throughout the global body of Christ the same summons we received. With this in mind, we encourage you to take the summons to the golden altar just as seriously as we have. So many times the church is guilty of receiving a word from the Lord or direction from one of His servants but doing nothing with it. In the case of eternal purpose prayer, we cannot do that. We must take the summons very seriously and act on the call. Even if you haven't had an angel come into the room to summons you to the golden altar, consider this your summons and pursue it. You will not regret it.
- c. VERY IMPORTANT!!!: Like I said earlier, you can easily be overwhelmed and think that you will never master everything stated above. There is no doubt that the list is daunting. So, make sure you understand that you do not have to have mastered all of the above to get started. All of the things I mentioned are important and very helpful in building an eternal purpose house of prayer. However, both you and the people you lead will grow in these things as you teach on them and as you get started praying into God's eternal purpose. In fact, if you will thoroughly and slowly teach through this class and the class, *The Eternal Blueprint*, you will have more than enough information to get started. So, please do not be intimidated. Just get started and go and build.

## III. Leading a Meeting

- a. Now that we have some insight into how to prepare to lead a prayer group focused on God's eternal purpose, I want to share several principles that will help you actually lead a group once you begin to meet. In sharing these principles, the primary focus is praying eternal purpose prayers *in a group setting*. Of course, you can pray into God's eternal purpose either individually or in a group. However, the focus of this section is to help your prayer group or church corporate prayer ministry

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grow in effectiveness. The principles to be shared reflect our experience in praying eternal purpose prayers since we began in 2015.

- b. One other note to consider as you see the principles presented here is that there are a considerable number of additional principles presented in other sessions. For example, the session on Holy Spirit led prayer offers several principles like praying in tongues and listening for the Lord's voice. In reality, every session contains principles for effective eternal purpose prayer, and this concluding section offers principles specifically oriented toward leading a session.

## 1. Don't wait until you have a full understanding of eternal purpose prayer to get started.

- a. Realizing this has been covered previously in this session, I repeat it for emphasis. When we received our summons to the golden altar in July of 2015, our leadership team in all reality knew very little about what the Lord was saying to us. We knew His call was real and serious but knew very little else about the call. Being directed by the solemn nature of the summons, we spent several weeks praying about what it meant and what to do. I then did a teaching series on the summons to the golden altar. Even though I had a very limited understanding at that point, once I completed the teaching series we began to pray prayers that we believed would ascend to the golden altar. Our prayer vocabulary has expanded greatly in the years that followed, but we didn't wait until we had full understanding to begin.
- b. Likewise, don't wait until you have full understanding of prayer that ascends to the golden altar or God's eternal purpose before you begin. Just get started. If you are a leader, feel free to tell your group you are just learning and as you grow in understanding, the ways you pray eternal purpose prayers will change. They will understand.
- c. One other important point to clarify to your group as you begin is to let them know that they *do not have to throw away the way they have always prayed in order to comply with the summons*. One point of contention that arose in our church when we first began was people thought they could no longer pray for anything they had prayed for before or that they had to learn a totally new way to pray. What I told them was to continue to pray as they had but add this dimension of prayer to their prayer lives. This helped our people transition to eternal purpose prayer. It may very well be that over time our prayer lives do dramatically change but that will happen over time. So reassure the people that God will patiently train them and accomplish through them all He wants.

## 2. Begin a group focused on prayer into God's eternal purpose.

- a. Eternal purpose prayer normally is best accomplished in a group setting that is specifically focused on God's eternal purpose. "One can put a thousand to flight and two ten thousand" (Deut. 32:30). There is power when two, three, or more come together to pray in agreement. Intimacy with Christ is built in a secret personal relationship with the Lord and prayer is certainly a part of our intimate times with the Lord. Eternal purpose prayer can most definitely be prayed when we are alone but is also very effective when prayed in a group setting. We have found that praying in a group setting enhances fervency and authority in our times of eternal purpose prayer. When we pray together in agreement, we can put the enemy to flight in a much more aggressive way than we can alone.

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Furthermore, the prayers of one will build upon the prayers of another and increase in intensity as we come together to pray in unity for the eternal purposes of the Lord.

- b. Therefore, as you begin to implement eternal purpose prayer into your church, begin a group that has eternal purpose prayer as its primary objective. Make it clear to the church that the group you are beginning will be focused on prayer that will ascend to the golden altar. At the time of this writing we have several opportunities for prayer at our home church. Our leadership team meets weekly for prayer for the church. Home groups meet monthly offering prayer for the personal needs, and we meet at other times for prayer into God's eternal purpose. So offer opportunities for other types of prayer as you feel led; but, keep your eternal purpose prayer times set aside for eternal purpose prayer.

## 3. Pray for protection, direction, and the burden of the Lord to rest upon you individually and on the group collectively.

- a. Three simple prayers are effective in beginning an eternal purpose prayer session so that your prayer time connects with the Holy Spirit for that particular time of prayer. First, pray for protection. Praying for protection is very important because the enemy does not like prayer that ascends to the golden altar. Appropriating the weapons of warfare help shield us from the opposition, frustration, and backlash that the enemy would like to interject either before, during, or after your prayer time. Appropriating the spiritual armor, covering the group, church, and extended family members of the church with the blood of Jesus, and asking for angels to surround you are all helpful tools that we regularly pray at the beginning of a session.
- b. Two other prayers are important at the beginning of each specific prayer session: 1) praying for the leading of the Holy Spirit to direct you and 2) asking for the burden of the Lord for that session. On our journey of praying eternal purpose prayer, we have found both of these prayers essential to effective eternal purpose prayer sessions. There are many topics that fall into the category of eternal purpose prayer. Which topics to pray for during a particular session often becomes a question in the hearts of those gathered to pray. Asking for the Holy Spirit's leading and, possibly even more importantly, requesting the burden of the Lord for that session will surface specific prayer topics and the associated anointing for a specific prayer session. (Also, see Session 8 for more information on Spirit led prayer).
- c. As a personal observation, when we first began to ask the Lord for His burden, the intensity of our prayer times increased significantly. For example, many times when we begin our times of prayer, we know we are to pray because the prayer time has been set for a particular time and place; even so, we often feel no leading of the Lord. As we pray for God's heart and burden to come upon us and for the Holy Spirit to lead us, focus and intensity emerge for a specific topic within the overall category of eternal purpose prayer.
- d. Therefore, begin your prayer sessions by praying for protection, the leading of the Holy Spirit, and the specific burden of the Lord for that particular prayer session.



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## 4. Keep the prayer focused on God's eternal purpose.

- a. One issue that has arisen in our eternal purpose prayer sessions is that the group regularly gets off track. For example, the leader might say "tonight we are going to pray for the coming forth of the corporate man in maturity". According to that prayer directive, prayers should be offered for topics like praying for the fullness of Christ to fill the corporate church; Christ to be formed in a people; believers to be conformed into the image of Christ; and topics like these. Even though the topic has been made clear, often the prayer focus will drift from the assigned topic into a myriad of other topics unrelated to God's eternal purpose. Often these topics are important and will focus on important issues in the church, city or nation. All may be important issues but not related to the topic of the night or even an eternal purpose prayer topic at all. Please note, I am not speaking about the Holy Spirit leading us in a different direction. This will happen at times and when it does, we must follow the Holy Spirit's leading. What I am speaking of here is more about people not understanding eternal purpose prayer, and as a result praying into issues totally unrelated to God's direction for the session or God's eternal purpose in general.
- b. There is a time and place for the many issues needing prayer; however, in eternal purpose prayer sessions, it is important to keep prayer dedicated to eternal purpose issues and the issues related to the prayer topic assigned for that particular prayer session. Otherwise, the prayer meeting that is supposed to be dedicated to prayer that will ascend to the golden altar will shift into a prayer meeting just like you have been having for years. Therefore, it is important that those who lead an eternal purpose prayer meeting be trained and directed to keep the prayer focus on issues that will ascend to the heavenly golden altar.

## 5. Lay down your personal needs and self-interests in order to pray for God's purposes.

- a. Jesus said, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it (Luke 9:23-24). Jesus spoke many times about laying down our life for Him and His purposes. Living our life for God and not for self is our call in every dimension of life and laying down our self-life to pray in a way that our prayers ascend to the golden altar is no exception.
- b. It is easy to pray for our own needs, our own desires, and blessings for ourselves and our loved ones. When we have a need or a child or grandchild in need, we all go with great fervency before the throne asking God to come through in our time of need. The same is true when a need arises in our local church. When a member who we love faces a crisis in their life, we rally around that one in intercession. This is as it should be.
- c. However, it is a totally different story when we are praying for the eternal purposes of God to come forth. We are no longer praying for our needs or desires; instead, we are praying for what God wants. At times, His plans and purposes are diametrically opposed to our comfort and pleasure. So, to pray effectively we must lay down our self-life—our desire for comfort, peace, rest, and pleasure—to pray for God's purposes. We are to pray as vessels through whom the eternal Christ can pray in accordance with heavenly thought and plans.

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- d. Thankfully, Jesus gave us reassurance that if we live this way, He will take care of us. He said,

For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own (Matt. 6:25-34).

- e. The above scripture presents a very important point related to eternal purpose prayer. If we were to analyze the topics prayed by most of the church, the church's prayers would be almost totally focused on the needs in individual lives, families, and local churches. In contrast, Jesus tells us if we will seek first Him and His purposes, He will take care of our needs. With that promise, we can place His purposes ahead of our own needs and we can pray for His objectives to be fulfilled believing that as we do so He will provide for our needs and objectives.
- f. This is an important understanding to have as we come before the golden altar to pray. We must understand that we can lay down our own personal self-interests at the door of an eternal purpose prayer session to totally focus on God's objectives and purposes.
- g. If you try to mix the two objectives in an eternal purpose prayer session, the participants will naturally evolve toward praying for needs in the lives of those in attendance or in the needs of the church. It has been interesting to note that when the focus is directed toward personal needs, the intensity and involvement increases. People become much more involved. As good as this is, it distracts the group from the purpose for which they are gathered—to offer prayer that ascends to the golden altar. What we do in our eternal purpose prayer sessions is to allow prayer for needs at the end of the session if there is a serious need among the group. Therefore, as much as possible when you are participating in eternal purpose prayer, keep the prayer focused on the subjects related to eternal purpose intercession.

## 6. Pray with fervency and determination.

- a. James 5:16 tells us that effective, fervent prayer accomplishes much. If we are going to be effective in our eternal purpose prayer, we can't just offer up ritualistic, rote prayers and expect to be used of God. Just offering words—prayers that are not prayed with fervency—do not accomplish much. Our words must be spoken from a heart that is fervent to see the eternal purpose of God unfold in the earth.
- b. In discussing the summons we received to the golden altar, Terry Bennett said something like this, "The hope for this nation [he was speaking of America, but it pertains to every nation] is represented by a people who are an exact representation of the Lord. We must fight it out by

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getting on our knees and *taking hold of the horns of the golden altar and staying there until there is a swaying in the heavens.*"

- c. "Taking hold of the horns of the altar" in the context of prayer has come to define prayer that is fervent for God's answers in response to the prayer. It involves a determination to stay at the place of prayer until God moves in the situation.
- d. When we pray with fervency and determination, we plead with passion and focus before God until we have prayed through an issue. To illustrate the fervency and determination needed, note several key points made by Terry Bennett that accompanied the summons to the golden altar he relayed to us in 2015,
  - The praying that is needed in this hour is not self-centered or needs based prayers. Praying for our own needs is not going to help us. God has already promised to take care of our needs.
  - God would mobilize an army who know how to get hold of God. He wants an army of people who know how to pray.
  - God desires people who will pray in warfare. It is more than just prayer. It is a warring for God's purpose in this nation. It is a warring for God's house—for the full intent of God for His people.
  - Not five minute prayers but until we take hold of the horns of the altar.
  - The kingdoms of the world have one purpose: to prevent the rule of God in the earth. God wants to raise up a corporate Daniel to pray into these things.
- e. As you can see from the above points, intercessors must be fervent in their heart so as to call forth the eternal purposes of God in a deep, sincere manner.
- f. In addition to being fervent in heart, we must also be fervent *in voice*. From a fervent heart, we must voice fervent prayers. It is not sufficient to merely sit and silently agree with those praying. Of course, we can silently agree as others pray, but when it is your turn to pray, it is not enough to be passive. It is not enough to pray weak prayers that communicate that you don't care if the prayer is answered or not—as though you are merely voicing prayer to check off that you have been at the meeting. To see things happen we must voice a prayer with an urgency and with great passion and fervency. This doesn't mean we have to be loud, but that we voice a passionate desire to see our prayers answered. When we pray this way, we will know that our prayers are ascending to the golden altar and being used of God to fill the heavenly incense bowls.
- g. A third point about fervency is that fervent prayer requires us to determinedly pray through an issue until we sense the release from the Lord on that issue. The group must not pray quick, brief prayers on an issue and then move on to the next topic. Rather, we should pray until we have prayed all that God desires for that particular issue before moving on.
- h. We are not saying we must pray long prayers in a corporate setting. Normally, it is more effective to pray relatively brief prayers on a specific topic then allow another to pray into the same topic. But

# Session 10: Building an Eternal Purpose House of Prayer

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we must stay focused on the topic at hand until we have prayed through an issue until we have finished.

## 7. Accompany times of eternal purpose prayer with fasting as the Holy Spirit leads.

- a. The Scriptures call believers to fast, and many times the Holy Spirit will lead us to accompany our times of eternal purpose prayer with fasting. The Old Testament saints fasted. Jesus fasted. The early Church fasted. And we are called to fast. Jesus said, "The attendants of the bridegroom cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast" (Matt. 9:15).
- b. The early Church fasted on a regular basis and fasted in connection to prayer. Acts 13:2-3 reads, "While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away." God spoke to these believers while they were praying with fasting. Another example of the early Church fasting is recorded in Acts 14:23: "When they had appointed elders for them in every Church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed" (Acts 14:23).
- c. The Book of Joel calls the end-time Church to fervent prayer. Notice that fasting is an integral part of the call to prayer in Joel as he writes, "Consecrate a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly; gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the house of the LORD your God, and cry out to the LORD" (Joel 1:14). He also writes, "'Yet even now,' declares the LORD, 'Return to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping and mourning; and rend your heart and not your garments'....Blow a trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly" (Joel 2:12-15).
- d. There will be many times that the Holy Spirit will lead those praying in an eternal purpose house of prayer to combine their times of prayer with fasting. There are many ways and lengths of time the Lord may call believers to fast; therefore, it is important that we allow the Lord to speak to us about fasting and then obey His voice as He speaks.
- e. As we conclude this session and this class, we hope these principles will help you get started. So, let's do it.