

Run With His Vision (Part 10)

Habakkuk 2:2-3 Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it."

Victory Life Church is:

10. A Praying church, interceding and fasting for nations, regions, cities, churches and individuals.

Mark 11:17 Then He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'?"

Excuses/Attitudes:

- ✓ It is Inconvenient
- ✓ We've done it before
- ✓ I don't want to
- ✓ I can only pray with certain people
- ✓ I can pray just as well at home
- ✓ I'm too involved in church
- ✓ It really isn't necessary
- ✓ I'm too busy already
- ✓ It doesn't do any good
- ✓ I'm going through trials
- ✓ I get more out of staying home and praying
- ✓ Praying with others irritates me
- ✓ You don't inspire me enough. If you were really a man of God you would be able to get people to pray.

Ezekiel 22:30 I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

Mark 14:37-38 He ... found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour?"³⁸ Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."

Keys to successful prayer ministry:

1. Have faith in God, not numbers

Matthew 18:18-20 "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."¹⁹

"Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven."²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

2. Refuse to quit: I will not ever give up prayer ministry in our church.

3. Teach & Model: Luke 18:1-8 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart...⁷ And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?⁸ I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

Defeating attitudes that kill prayer in the local church:

1. Negativity: **A negative spirit will not enlarge the prayer ministry, nor inspire others**
2. Comparison to others: It cripples. Others should inspire us not discourage us. 2 Corinthians 10:12 For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.
3. Legalism (judgmental) - Browbeating
4. Laziness
5. Pre-determined un-involvement (Sunday morning Service Only)

Opportunities for prayer:

1. Pre-service Prayer (It primes the pump)
2. Prayer Chain 1 Thessalonians 5:25 Brethren, pray for us.
3. Prayer Focus Bulletin *E-mail Prayer requests, etc.*
4. Personal Devotions Mark 1:35 Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.
5. Prayer driving (Praying in the Spirit) 1 Corinthians 14:14 If I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays ...
6. 24 Hour House of Prayer Luke 6:12 ... that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.
7. Prayer & Fasting Mark 9:28b-29 ..., "Why could we not cast it out?" 29 So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."
8. Be sensitive to Holy Spirit reminders. Ephesians 1:16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention (remembrance, memory) of you in my prayers:
1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing (continual, without intermission)
9. Prayer walking Joshua 1:3 "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you ... all the land ... shall be your territory.
10. Altar calls/Prayer circles in church service James 5:16 ...pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
 - Gather in a circle of 3-4 people; Pray 2-3 minutes for each other's needs.
11. Pray every time a need is expressed. Say "**Can I pray for you?**" and do it right there.



Psalm 2:8 Ask of Me, and I will give *You* the nations *for* Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth *for* Your possession.



Prayer makes the difference:

Acts 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. 2 Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. 3 And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. 4 So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover. 5 Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. 6 And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. 7 Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hand ... many were gathered together praying.