

**ETHAN TEMPLE MINISTRIES
TOOLS FOR LIFE
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UNITED PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT

Christians uniting in prayer for a specific purpose has long been understood by believers to be an essential part of the Christian life. At one time I thought united prayer referred to two or more Christians coming together to pray. During prayer each one would pray for whatever came to their mind. Each prayer would have some common elements and would also have a number of requests that varied from those of the others who were praying. This is not the biblical definition for Christians uniting together for prayer. No, united prayer is two or more Christians praying for the same thing. They are united in desire, purpose, and request. They pray together at the same place and time with one prayer focus. If they cannot meet at the same place to pray, then they will pray at the same time with one prayer focus, or they may pray together on the phone. However, if possible, it is more strengthening to each if they actually meet together for prayer.

In our personal lives united prayer with fellow believers is a powerful force against Satan. This is why James counsels us to join together when praying for the sick and to pray for one another:

“Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:14-16).

In fact, it is necessary for those ready to meet Jesus when He returns to have entered into genuine, united prayer for one another. We were not created to stand alone in our battle with Satan. We need one another’s prayers for the complete victory over the enemy.

United prayer is also essential for the advancement of God’s kingdom on this earth. Satan will resist every forward movement of God’s work. United prayer will significantly increase God’s power to advance His

kingdom.

The Old Testament has numerous references to believers uniting together in prayer. The “teacher” in Ecclesiastes offers a significant lesson on the importance of others joining with us in our battle against our enemy, Satan:

“Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken” (Eccl. 4:12, NIV).

Leviticus tells us:

“And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword” (Lev. 26:8).

If we try to stand alone in the battle against Satan and his temptations, we will be more easily overcome. As the “teacher” says, one alone may be more easily overpowered, while two can defend themselves – and three are even stronger. This is why fellowshiping in prayer with other Christians is so important and powerful.

Jesus uttered a most significant statement about the importance – and even necessity – of two or more believers joining together in fellowship and prayer.

“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them” (Matt. 18:19, 20, NIV).

When two or more believers pray in the Spirit, they can be confident that God will hear and answer their prayer:

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him” (1 John 5:14, 15).

Personal Reflections and Discussion

Describe united prayer in the Spirit.

Give a scripture that indicates that united prayer is even more effective than one Christian praying alone.

Do you think Satan wants Christians to unite together for prayer?

What can you do to become more involved in uniting in prayer with fellow believers?

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