



“Top 10 Marketplace Prayer Questions Answered ...”

Dear Marketplace Christian,

Most people don't put the words “business” and “prayer” in the same sentence very often. For many, praying at work or living out your Christian faith in whatever marketplace activity you are involved in takes a little getting used to.

Since it's common for me to get many questions on this topic once I say the phrase, “The Business of Prayer” ... I decided to compile a Top 10 List to better communicate what Marketplace Prayer is all about from my perspective.

Here's the list and the short version of my answers. As you stay connected with our ministry, you'll hear me expanded on my answers, plus I'll provide “God Story” examples of how everyday Christians encounter God through prayer in their everyday lives.

Enjoy!

Chauncey Hutter, Jr

#1

What is The Business of Prayer?

The Business of Prayer is a marketplace prayer ministry. We invite people to take the time and encounter God through prayer and reading of the Bible while at work. We host regular weekly prayer meetings focused on asking Jesus to wake us up in love and to help us walk more Kingdom purposed in our daily activities. The Business of Prayer also hosts Marketplace Worship / Encounter Events to help equip Christians to bring the presence of God into their workplace.

#2

How do you pray in the marketplace?

There are many ways to pray. Prayer is all about turning your attention to Jesus and purposing your heart to focus on Him. You can pray silently with your eyes closed in a side break room with the lights dimmed. You can pray with your eyes wide open, out loud -- standing in a crowded room with flashing lights and lots of external distractions. As Marketplace Christians, we want to abide in His presence in the midst of our work day, but also carve out some alone (private) time with our heavenly Father as well. We can model Daniel and stop three times a day to pray. Or we can follow Jesus' example and "abide" in our heavenly Father, listening to His voice and only doing what He says.

#3

Why focus on God when you are at work?

Why not? I mean, if you are in love, why wouldn't you want to think about, focus on or pray to God? (...which can be just talking to Jesus about what's going on in your day). Jesus can't stop focusing on you and how much He loves you and enjoys you. By focusing your attention back on Him, whatever you're doing at work is going to be better for you. (I didn't say easier. Some of your work may seem harder or more difficult.) But Jesus knows what's best. He is THE best leader this planet has ever seen. If I want to do well at work or be effective at my job, I'm going to focus on God in the midst of my workday.

#4

What's the best prayer strategy for my particular marketplace situation?

This depends on what your job is or what business you are in. But the overall prayer strategy is the same. Invite God in. Ask the Holy Spirit to join you in the midst of your day. The Lord promises when you draw near to Him, He WILL draw near to you. THEN TAKE TIME TO ADORE THE LORD. Be a "presence bringer," so when you walk in the room, something shifts in the atmosphere. You begin to speak words of hope and encouragement (instead of the normal

doom and gloom and despair words people normally say). Then the light will start to break back the darkness and change will begin to take place.

#5

What are the “7 Mountains of Culture” and why are they important?

Every city (and our society as a whole) is shaped by what some have termed, “the 7 mountains of cultural influence” ... business, government, media, arts & entertainment, education, the family and the church. The leaders in high places of these cultural mountains (top 3 to 5 percent) have historically been able to shape society for good or evil through their power and influence. Well, from a strategic standpoint, if we want to take territory for the Kingdom of God, why wouldn't we target the “head” of each mountain where all of the influence and power of our society is? How do we do this, you ask? PRAY. Asking God to do His part and then to show us the best way to do our part is THE best plan of action.

#6

How can we actually bring God into our city and see revival in our region?

God says “my house will be a house of prayer” ... so part of the answer is get a group of praying Christians together in a church or a House of Prayer ministry and begin to pray day and night. I've seen the atmosphere of a city (or region) totally change because a group of people [in scheduled shifts for an extended season of time] cry out to God for justice, for mercy and to bring revival to that area.

The other part of the answer is you. You have the same Holy Spirit. The temple of God is in your heart if you are a born again believer. That means you are called to be a “walking house of prayer” ... so where your two feet go, you and the Holy Spirit are praying. God really IS in every corner of the city when Christians get a vision for abiding in His presence and bringing revival to the hearts of many who may have never set foot in a church before. In the mid 90's, Billy Graham said the next great revival and move of God will come out of the marketplace. I believe this to be true.

#7

How can I make prayer more enjoyable so I really want to do it?

Prayer is all about relationship. When we pray, we are talking to our heavenly Father. Our Creator God Dad loves us. His thoughts FOR EACH OF US outnumber the little bitty grains of sand by the sea. If you pray and ask the Lord for more revelation on His love for you and how much He really loves you and how He actually enjoys being with you – prayer will be much more enjoyable!

If you think God is mean or He doesn't really like you. Or you believe God is really NOT a good heavenly daddy all the time (no matter what the situation is) and / or you think He puts up with you in your continual failures ... then coming to God in prayer is going to be harder.

The Word of God is powerful. Go to scripture and READ OUT LOUD the promises the Lord has given us. Proclaim to your own heart (out loud in your quiet time) the goodness of the Lord. Do this with a prayerful heart and the Word will wash you clean and give you a night and day different perspective on prayer.

#8

Prayer seems like a distraction or a waste of time ... how do I make prayer more relevant?

Prayer is extremely relevant. But this is the trap we all get into at various times. We want to go out and try and do everything ourselves ... especially those of us who are entrepreneurs or business leaders that are "Type A" personality go-getters. We take action and ask questions later. Well, after a while if you continue on this path, you'll have your lunch handed to you and get yourself in a pickle and THEN Prayer seems like a good idea. (God help me out of this mess!) Personally, I've wasted more time over the years NOT praying and just "doing it" that I'm tired of trying to do it my way. I've learned the hard way, prayer is NOT a distraction and is critically important to being on the same page as God. Personally, I think being relevant God's way is a much better (wiser) approach to life.

#9

What's the best way to get started with other marketplace Christians who like to pray?

People say to me all the time, "I want to pray more at work, but I don't know any other Christians at my job ... how do I get started?" This is simple, but profound.

PRAY. Yep ... you alone -- take a few moments each day before you start work (i.e. get there early) and ask God to bring a spirit of prayer at your workplace. Ask Him to bring a Christian [same sex is advised if married] for you to pray with. I'm telling you, God loves answering these kinds of prayers! Remember, most believers go to work and keep their faith in a "bunker" because they don't feel safe or have a vision for how God wants to use them in this setting. Once you start praying, don't be surprised if they don't come out of the woodwork. And some percentage of them will want to pray. Don't forget, a group of only 2 or 3 is great!

#10

How can I walk out my Christian faith at work without feeling awkward?

Be who God made you ...nothing more, nothing less. Everyone is different and this “marketplace faith walk” looks different to each Christian. But here’s a simple strategy any Christian can follow that makes it easier to be open about your faith at work.

Start with prayer. Ask Jesus to highlight others in your office -- or wherever your marketplace is -- to speak to. Then take them to do lunch with you one day and ask them their story. What makes them tick? What are their passions? What are their future goals? Guess what happens. The person will eventually open up more (because everyone’s favorite subject is themselves) and usually they will ask you about your story.

That’s your chance to just share some of your heart. Share a little about your faith journey. Give a piece of your personal testimony how Jesus has changed your life and even relate it to that other person’s life. Now your “faith” is on the table and through relationship, you have a door to discuss other “life situations” that come up.

To continue The Business of Prayer conversation with other Marketplace Christians, join us on Facebook.

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