

PHASE 3: THE AUDITORIUM SEATS

I systematically walk through 2-3 rows in every section of the worship center, praying for those who will sit in the seats. I will often pray:

- For the worshippers to sense the love of the Lord in a very real way.
- For the Christians to personally prepare their hearts to encounter the Lord.
- For the backslidden, “prodigals” to feel the mercy and grace of our Lord Jesus.
- For the Lord to be gracious to the worshippers, and bless them and make his face to shine upon them, that his ways may be known on earth, his saving power among the nations. (Ps. 67:1-2)
- For the Lord to open their minds to understand and their hearts to believe his word, because flesh and blood cannot reveal these things, but only our Father in heaven.
- For lost people to be saved, hurting and broken people to be healed, grieving people to be comforted, confused people to see clearly, those in bondage to addictions to be delivered, those taken captive by the lies of false religions to be set free by God’s truth that sets us free.
- For unrepentant, stubborn, hard-hearted Christians to repent and come home to the Lord in their hearts.

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A LETTER FROM PASTOR NATHAN

My fellow worshippers,

Thank you for coming to our Sunday morning preparation time. During this time we will pray for Christ’s presence to be manifested in our worship services through the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us. I strongly believe that this preparation service has a tremendous influence in the Holy Spirit’s activity in our church family’s Lord’s Day gatherings.

Enclosed you will find some guiding principles to facilitate us praying together.

Thank you again for coming to pray this morning,

Pastor Nathan

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

This will be a self-guided prayer time, unlike Tuesday nights.

This is a “come and go” prayer time, so if you can only stay for a few minutes, that’s no problem! Due to my Sunday morning duties, I generally pray from 8:30-9am. You and others are welcome to keep praying past 9am.

Likely, you’ll only be able to pray in teams of 2-4 people. The music team is practicing (which is completely understandable!) and the loud noise prevents us from being able to pray in groups of more than 2-4 people. Please don’t expect a large group prayer time.

If you see me or another person praying in the worship center during this time, assume we are participating in the altar service. You are welcome to approach me or others to partner up and pray together.

I generally follow a three phase prayer process during the altar service.

PHASE 1: THE STAGE

Kneeling at the altar

I prepare my own heart to encounter God

- Renewed humility before God, repentance of sin, total surrender of myself to Jesus Christ as Lord, and re- establishing Jesus Christ as my greatest treasure and chief motive in this world.

Once I have prepared my own heart, I pray for the Father that the Holy Spirit would manifest the presence of Jesus Christ to us in the worship services.

- I will often pray specifically through Ephesians 3:14-21.
- I pray for the Lord’s presence to be manifested in the worship services. It is much more important that the Lord attends our worship services than that people attend our worship services. If the Lord manifests Himself and moves with power, word will get out and people will come in droves. There is no greater draw for people to meet the Lord than the Lord Himself showing up and making His presence known through performing signs and wonders!
- Next, I pray for the sermon and preacher, the musicians and singers, the audio-visual team, and whomever else might have stage responsibilities in the worship services (such as people leading in prayer, Scripture reading, etc).

Ideas to pray for the stage personalities:

- 1 Tim. 1:5 – “Lord, help their goal in everything they say and do to be love coming from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. Please don’t let them have ulterior motives, sinful hearts, and an insincere faith. May they fully prepare their own hearts to lead us to your throne.”
- “Lord, fill them with your Holy Spirit and anoint them for their leadership roles today. Please activate the gifting and talents you have given them.”
- “Lord, may you pour out your anointing on the words of the songs and the words of the sermon and may they accomplish your purposes in all of our minds and hearts. May your word go out from this stage in power today.”

PHASE 2: THE ALTAR AREA

While walking back and forth across the altar area where the public response time will take place following the sermons, I specifically pray for that key moment in our worship services.

Ideas to pray for the public response time:

- Lord, would all whom you are calling to yourself this morning respond at the call of your still, small voice in their hearts.
- Would you grant them humility and faith to come out in front of the crowd; to care more about coming to you than what people might think of them.
- Would you break down any barriers at the entry points of the aisles into the altar area at the front. We know that narrow is the gate that leads to life and few enter in. May the gate to you be wide open this morning - may there be no hindrances in the spiritual realm.
- May people come to you to receive salvation and baptism. May the Holy Spirit draw people to become members of our church family. May needy worshippers have the humility and faith to come out before the crowd and request prayer from a pastor or kneel at the altar, and may they ask big audacious things of you believing you can do anything. May they approach your throne of grace confidently in order to find mercy and grace in their time of need.
- May you drive away the demons that infest the altar area during the response time in an effort to keep people away from you. For we can see in the Scriptures that wherever you are available to people, demons are there also to try and hinder people from coming to you.