

# Tuesday Devotional

October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

“22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven.” – 1 Kings 8:22

Why do we have a pastoral prayer in the middle of our worship service? We joke that this part of the service is great for nap time. It has often been called the “long prayer”, and I believe we have in a way lost focus of what worship is when we come to this part of the worship service. It is easy to zone out and to forget that worship is meant to have full participation, even in the “long prayer”.

Why do we have this prayer in our worship service? The first reason is it is Biblical. In the passage above, Solomon prays a long intercessory prayer with the people of God in the presence of the Lord. In this prayer, Solomon prays with the people God for the faithfulness of God, the promises of God, confession of the sins of the people, and he they pray the needs of the people. Solomon, with the people of God, worship God by praising His name, and pleading with Him for His never-ending mercy.

In the Church today, the pastoral prayer is not meant to be the pastor playing the role of priest or mediator. The pastor is leading all the people of God before the throne of grace praying together (Hebrews 4:14-16). That is why this is an act of corporate worship. Corporate worship is the people of God gathering together and bringing praise to the name of the Lord. If the pastor is praying by himself from the pulpit than this is defeating the purpose of corporate worship all together. Therefore, the challenge for both the pastor and the congregation is to pray together.

Prayer in and of itself is hard work. Prayer as the corporate body is even harder work. Therefore, we must maintain focus during this wonderful time in the middle of our worship service. Let us gather together as the people of God, not neglecting to corporately as one body bring our prayers to our Lord God almighty. Let us be careful and focused to participate during this time of the worship service, maintaining our heart of worship.

For Further Study: Ephesians 6:18-19; Philippians 1:3-5; Colossians 4:2-3; I Thessalonians 1:2-3; 1 Timothy 2:1-4