

Questions About The 24/7 Prayer Room

1) Why do we have a 24/7 prayer room at New Life?

- a) A better question might be “why not?”. I cannot think of a single downside when it comes to spending more time with our Heavenly Father.
- b) Your involvement may be for a variety of reasons that certainly do not have to match mine, the others on the team that started this, or the leadership at New Life.
- c) My personal reason (*in case you thought I have an agenda...I do*) is that I believe the American Church is becoming a desolate church.

We are called to be salt and light, we are told to be in the world, but not a part of it, not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed, by the renewing of our mind. We are to be aliens, pilgrims, and exiles serving our Lord until His return. We actually only need one word that should describe us and the Church...Christlike.

However, I see many of us (myself included) who instead of being tent dwellers, we build our “homes” with the brick and mortar of this world. The American Church has become like Daniel described Israel in Daniel 9:1-23, captive to godless forces and the object of mockery and scorn among the nations.

We need to praise God that we go to an evangelical church like New Life, where statistics say that about 50% of us have what George Barna calls a “biblical worldview”. That compares to 8% of the rest of the American Protestant Church and 0.5% of American Catholics. Of course 50% is nothing to be proud of, or to rest in, because we are ALL a part of the American Church. Sadly, it looks like instead of the Church having an effect on the culture, the culture has affected the Church.

So I want to set aside AT LEAST one hour a week and pray for the American Church. I want to cry out to God to awaken us to His Glory, His Fame, and His Name. I want to pray as Daniel did...

Dan 9:19 (NASB)- “O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name.”

2) What the 24/7 prayer movement is NOT about.

It is not about replacing any of your own personal prayer time with God. Let me tell you from personal experience that if the hour you sign up for is the only hour a week you pray, you will be a seriously malnourished Christian. You will be starving for fellowship with your Creator.

However, I will say this, if your prayer life is not where you would like it to be, my prayer is that spending one hour a week in the 24/7 prayer room will “kick start” you forward into a deeper relationship with God. For some of us, it may just take that “having a specific time and specific place” to make that happen.

3) Why do I have to go to the 24/7 Prayer Room to pray?

I asked that same question to some of those who have started these kind of prayer rooms...here are some of the responses...

- a) The Holy Spirit can fill a place as well as a person (Acts 2:2). There's a strong sense of God's presence in such a place of prayer.
- b) All alone in the prayer room allows you to be as verbal, or non-verbal as you want to be with God, something that even our home does not always provide.
- c) The room provides accountability...a place where people have to turn up, and this ensures a constant flow, as one shift hands the baton on to the next. Visiting the room one hour a week is like a mini-pilgrimage.
- d) A shared location provides a strong sense of being a part of a community, carrying each others burdens, celebrating the breakthroughs together, and ministering to one another.

4) What are all the things on the wall in the 24/7 Prayer Room?

We have posted things on the walls of the room that contain list of things to pray for and Bible verses to assist your prayer time. They have a personal, local, national, and global aspect in mind.

However, I cannot stress enough these are only things to assist you in your prayer time. They are not there for you to “check off” like a task to complete. There will be many times that God will keep you at one wall the whole hour. There will also be times that God has placed on your heart something, or someone, that is not on the walls at all. My best theological term for this is “cool beans”.

There are two great tools in the room that I believe God will use, the prayer diary, and the prayer request / answer cards. These things will show those who pray before and after you what God is doing.

5) Can we really “change God’s mind” with prayer?

Well fortunately for you and the entire universe Scott Walden is not God, so I really cannot fully answer that question. I can tell you what I have gleaned from the Bible, and a recent reading of an old article in Discipleship Journal, about this question.

There does seem to be places where God changes His mind about a situation, Gen 18 (Abraham bargains with God about how many righteous people are needed in Sodom for God to withhold His wrath) and Ex 32 (Moses intercedes on behalf of Israel) are two of several examples.

But while we see examples of this, we also know from Scripture that God does not change. He does not get more wisdom, for example, because He is wisdom. He does not increase in love, because He is love. He does not get weaker, or stronger, younger, or older. God is immutable. God is God.

While this may seem like a paradox, we must remember that while God is immutable, He is not immobile. God has always been portrayed in the Bible as a God of action. He shows us in Ezek 33:13-16 that his action will always correspond to the change that occurs in US.

So what all this really boils down to is that prayer allows God to change us.

As someone once pointed out, it is much like a father asking his son to help him assemble a new bicycle. The father doesn’t actually need the help, but he knows it will benefit the son to be involved. Prayer should not be viewed as getting what we want, or changing God’s mind, but as God achieving what He wants through us.

6) Will it be difficult to pray for a whole hour?

Remember that the actual setting aside of the time, the physically going, and the spending of one hour in prayer, will be under attack. Keep in mind that until Christ returns we are fighting a war on three fronts: our flesh (Rom 6-8), the world (Jas 4, 1Jn 2), and Satan (Eph 6). All three of these will try and discourage you from even being a part of this, let alone praying for a solid hour. Now I don’t want to paint a grim picture here because we know that “greater is He who is in me, then he who is in the world”.

The things on the walls, the music, and the Bible verses will assist you if you need it, but remember it is not a task list to complete. For those of you who have never spent a solid hour in prayer, trust me, just coming in and getting quiet before God, dwelling on Him, repenting sin, praising Him, thanking Him, etc., will allow the Holy Spirit to lead you through a hour that will seem like 10 minutes. There will be times that, if no one is scheduled the hour after yours, God will keep you there even longer.