

SERMON NOTES

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SIMULTANEOUS PRAYERS

What is Simultaneous Prayer?

- Simultaneous prayer is when several believers pray at the same time, individually expressing their prayers to God while sharing a common purpose.
- This is different from one person praying publicly while everyone else listens.
- The emphasis is not necessarily that everyone says the exact same words, but that believers are united in purpose, faith, and dependence upon God.
- Robert Williamson observed: *“Many prayers heard in church are not public prayers at all. They are merely private prayers which are prayed in public.”*

1. The Biblical Foundation for United Prayer

- **Matthew 18:18–19** — Jesus emphasizes agreement in prayer and the authority given to His people.
- **1 Timothy 2:1** — Believers are instructed to offer prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings.
- **James 5:15** — Prayer is connected with faith and the ministry of the believing community.
- **Psalms 133:1** — Unity among God's people is described as good and precious.
- **1 Kings 8:22–23** — Solomon demonstrates corporate prayer before God.

2. The Background of Acts 4

- Peter and John had been confronted and instructed not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus (**Acts 4:18–23**).
- Instead of allowing opposition to silence them, the believers gathered together to pray.
- **Hebrews 10:25** also emphasizes the importance of believers gathering together.

3. “One Voice”

- After Peter and John were released, the believers gathered and prayed. **Acts 4:24** describes them lifting their voice to God *“with one accord.”*
- **Acts 2:1** — The disciples were together in unity.
- **2 Chronicles 5:13** — The worshippers functioned together as one.
- **Exodus 2:23–25** — Israel's collective cry came before God.
- **Judges 10:10** — God's people cried to Him concerning their situation.
- **Luke 17:13** — The ten lepers lifted up their voices together, calling upon Jesus.

4. What Did They Pray?

- **Acts 4:24–26** — They began by acknowledging who God is.
- Their prayer recognized God's sovereignty and connected their present circumstances with Scripture, particularly **Psalms 2:1–2**.
- They understood that what was happening around them did not take God by surprise.

5. The Result of United Prayer

- **Acts 4:31** - After they prayed:
 - The place was shaken.
 - They were filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - They spoke the Word of God with boldness.
- Their prayer produced greater boldness for God's mission.
- The church did not gather merely to discuss the problem. They gathered to seek God.

6. Caution

- **1 Corinthians 14:33** - *“For God is not the author of confusion (disorder) but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.”*
- Biblical corporate prayer should reflect:
 - Unity
 - Reverence
 - Order
 - Faith
 - Biblical truth
 - Love for one another
 - Focus on God
- The principle of 1 Corinthians 14:33 reminds the church that spiritual activity should be conducted in a way that reflects God's character.