**GOD'S STANDARD**

*"My House shall be called a House of Prayer "*

Matthew 21:13 (Isa 56:7)

 Lecture Time 30 min. Group Prayer Time 40 min. Personal Prayer Time 20-50 min.

LEADER’s NOTE: Share the following 10 measurements with a group of church leaders.

Highlight each of the 10 points and show the difference between each.

Solicit questions – ask for insights.

Provide answers that meet needs.

* Then lead them in a discussion.
* Following the discussion provide each attendee with a copy
* Then let them fill in the 3rd blank with an analysis of their own church.

NOTE: Dear Attendees:

* Participate in the discussion of prayer in your local churches.
* Please openly, honestly share the situation in your church.
* Following the discussion fill in the 3rd blank with an analysis of your own church.
* After your personal analysis of your own local congregation discuss questions about how, when, etc.
* YOU might wish to implement changes to bring your church more in line with the Lord’s Standard.
* When you share this with another local congregation follow a similar procedure as above.
* Then call for a special meeting of prayer to inaugurate the coming changes.
* Next change your Sunday Morning Worship format to include new and more aspects of prayer.

Many churches have prayer ministries – Yet the **ALMIGHTY** said “My House shall be Called a House of Prayer”. Perhaps it will be helpful to note some differences between having prayer ministries or in actuality having a ***House of Prayer.***

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| **PRAYER MINISTRY** | **HOUSE OF PRAYER** | **YOUR LOCAL CHURCH** |
|  |  |  |
| 1. Limited number of people involved.
 | 1. Entire congregation involved.
 | 1. |
| 1. Prayer is done by a select few and the responsibility is always put on them to pray.
 | 1. Entire congregation takes ownership for doing their “prayer share.”
 | 2. |
| 1. Little or no regular emphasis from the pulpit.
 | 1. Teaching from the pulpit and priority is placed on prayer by the leadership.
 | 3. |
| 1. Prayer is done on guilt basis.
 | 1. Prayer is considered a privilege, a joy, a desire.
 | 4. |
| 1. Vision for church growth in prayer is limited. Acceptance that only a few pray.
 | 1. Concept of “prayer group” has grown to larger vision of “prayer army.”
 | 5. |
| 1. Only a few leaders attend prayer meetings with no regular commitment. A few carry the burden to pray.
 | 1. All leaders have a burden for prayer.
 | 6. |
| 1. Church groups open meetings with prayer as a main agenda item.
 | 1. Groups spend time praying together and set times of prayer in addition to regular meetings.
 | 7. |
| 1. Something lacking in church atmosphere because prayer is feeble.
 | 1. There is a fresh flowing atmosphere of the Holy Spirit due to whole church praying.
 | 8. |
| 1. Prayer opportunities limited for members to have the freedom to pray.
 | 1. There is a natural flow of prayer going on throughout the church.
 | 9. |
| 1. Prayer has a minor role in spiritual life of leaders.
 | 1. Prayer has a major role in spiritual life of leaders.
 | 10. |