

What is a Prayer Meeting?

A "Prayer Meeting" is a weekly gathering of Christians to give praise, thanks, honour, and love to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. It's a time we gather in community, to praise God on a one-to-one basis, as the Holy Spirit moves us.

A Prayer Meeting is not a discussion group, a therapy session, or a time for counseling. We come together to give our full attention to Jesus through the help of the Holy Spirit, who will teach us all truth.

What is the purpose of a Prayer Meeting?

- To praise, worship and honour God.
- To build up the Body of Christ, as brothers and sisters.

Is a Prayer Meeting approved by the Catholic Church?

Yes. To quote from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops Pastoral Statement in 2003, "The Charismatic Renewal is a grace within and for the whole Church."

What happens at a Prayer Meeting?

(Refer to *Corinthians 14: 26-35*)

The Prayer Meetings normally follow the following agenda:

- Opening prayer
- Time of praise and worship
- Prophecy (God speaking through someone)
- Tongues (in song as well)
- Interpretation of tongues
- Scripture readings
- Teaching
- Testimony
- Sharing

How long do the Prayer Meetings last?

Prayer Meetings usually last a minimum of one-and-a-half hours. *Matthew 26:40* "How is it that

you were not able to watch with me for one hour?"

Do I have to raise my hands and pray like others do?

No. You should pray as you feel comfortable praying; as if you were alone with Jesus. Pray as you feel comfortable, but also respect others, the way they pray and feel comfortable.

Do I have to say "Praise the Lord, alleluia, etc."?

No. You do not have to say or do anything you are not comfortable with. Just keep an open heart to the Holy Spirit and pray however you wish. Just PRAY.

Is a prayer group a parish organization?

No. A prayer group is made up of individuals who get together weekly as a family for the purpose of giving Jesus the praise He deserves. The first and primary purpose of all prayer is to praise and honour the God who created us and who gives us all the gifts and blessings we enjoy each day.

What are the spiritual gifts we pray for?

(Refer to *1 Corinthians: Chapters 12, 13, & 14.*)

The gifts we pray for are:

- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Faith
- Prophecy (*2 Peter 1: 20-21*)
- Discernment of spirits
- Tongues (*Acts 2: 4*)
- Interpretation
- Healing (*Acts 5: 12-16*)
- Miracles (*Acts 2:43*)

Is the "Baptism in the Spirit" a new Sacrament?

No. It is merely a RELEASE of the POWER of the Holy Spirit already within US; helping us to appreciate Jesus, the Bible, our daily prayer life, our faith, etc., in a deeper way.

Do I have to speak at a Prayer Meeting?

No. The ones that speak, prophesy or read are usually moved to do so by the Holy Spirit. *John 14: 26 - "the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you."*

What is 'testimony'?

Testimony is sharing with others how the Lord is working in your life. One's testimony should be short and to the point. Nothing can deaden a testimony more than rambling and irrelevant detail. Make it 'short and sweet.'

How can I grow spiritually?

Attend the prayer meeting each week, read from the Bible at least 15 minutes daily, talk to the Lord throughout the day and take time to listen to Him. Ongoing teachings are a regular part of the Prayer Meeting.

Who can give a teaching at a meeting?

A teaching is reserved to one who has been cleared through the leadership or core group. This is to ensure proper teaching.

Is a Prayer Meeting based on the Bible?

Yes. Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in My name, there I am in their midst." (*Matthew 18: 19-20; 1 Corinthians 14: 26; Acts 1: 14; Acts 2: 42.*)

Why do people sing at a Prayer Meeting?

Refer to *Colossians 3:16*. Singing is a way of praying, praising, and worshipping God. St. Bernard said, "He who sings, prays twice." However, it should not turn into a songfest. We should PAUSE between songs, readings, and prophecies, etc. and LISTEN. This is the time the Holy Spirit can talk to us. We need silence to reflect and allow the Spirit to work.

Why do some greet others with a hug?

This is just a sign of brotherhood.

(See 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13: 12; 1 Thessalonians 5: 26; and 1 Peter 5:14.)

Is a Prayer Meeting like the Eucharistic Celebration of Mass?

Don't compare one with the other. The Eucharist is a reliving of the greatest act of love that ever took place upon earth - the Last Supper and Calvary combined (Jesus offering Himself to the last drop of blood for each of us.) In the Eucharist we receive Jesus, body, blood, soul, and divinity. In a Prayer Meeting, the same Jesus is present as in the Mass, not in the sacramental form, but in the scripture readings, in one another by the promise of His word ("*where two or three are gathered in My name...*") in our praise, in prophesy, etc.

Where can I read something on the Holy Spirit in the Bible?

John 14:16 & 26; John 15: 26; John 16: 7 & 13; Acts 1: 4 & 8; Acts 2:4, 17, & 38; Acts 4: 31; Acts 5: 32; Acts 8: 17; Acts 10: 44-48; Acts 19: 5-6; Romans 5: 3-5; Romans 8: 1-17, & 26-27; 1 Corinthians 2: 6-16; 1 Corinthians 3: 16; Galatians 5: 16-26, and many others.

Is Satan real?

See Ephesians 6: 10-18; 1 Peter 5: 8; Matthew 4: 1-11; Matthew 8: 28-34; Matthew 10: 1-8; Matthew 12: 22-28; Matthew 13: 36-43.

Importance of prayer and fasting....

See Mark 9: 29; Mark 11: 22-26; Mark 14: 37-38; Luke 6: 12; Luke 11: 1-11; Luke 6: 12-16; Matthew 26: 34-46; and Acts 2:42.

What should I keep in mind when attending a Prayer Meeting?

Come at least 4 to 5 times before making a judgment. It takes that long to understand how the Spirit is working.

- Pray as you feel comfortable (let others do the same.)
- Praying alone, we are easily distracted; we support each other at a Prayer Meeting.
- Pause between songs, readings, and teachings to allow the Spirit to work.
- Don't concentrate on others - concentrate on Jesus and YOU.
- All ages are welcome - we are all children of God (young and old alike.) Some people sometimes bring their children along to the meetings.
- Come with an open mind and heart.
- Don't be afraid, you are with friends; don't let the evil one discourage you.
- You will experience the "fruits of the Spirit" as you progress. (Galatians 5: 22 & 1 Corinthians 12)
- If you do not have an opportunity to speak or share at the meetings, you may do so after the meeting with others during the fellowship time.
- If you have any questions, please don't leave until you get an answer. We love you and together we love God and HELP EACH OTHER AS BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

"PRAISE, HONOUR, and GLORY ARE YOURS, LORD"

Jeremiah 29: 11-13 For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then, when you call upon Me and come and pray to Me, you will find Me; if you seek Me with all your heart



What is a Prayer Meeting?

Manresa Prayer Group

Pickering, Ontario

www.manresaprayergroup.org

**** Pamphlet Adapted from Bread of Life Community ****