

# Concert of Prayer

## Distinctives That Shape the Format

A PRAYER WORKSHOP WITH RHODA GONZALES HOSTED BY LOIS EVANS

“Concert of Prayer” is a term used widely to define a distinctive prayer gathering, differing at a number of points from most other times Christians pray together. The distinctives suggest a different approach to how the prayer meeting is shaped and led.

Here are **seven distinctives** of the concert of prayer.

- #1** A concert of prayer is marked by **a spirit of celebration**. Throughout we rejoice in hope (Romans 5:3), anticipating all God has promised to us in answer to our prayers for spiritual awakening and work evangelization.
- #2** A concert of prayer incorporates these **basic themes**:  
Praise, Confession, Repentance, Intercession, Thanks and Celebration
- #3** A Concert of Prayer provides **visible expression of unity in the body of Christ**. Like the variety of instruments in an orchestra brought together under one Conductor to play from one Score (the Scriptures), so believers united in prayer can release the music of God’s kingdom purposes for the whole world to hear. In a concert of prayer, Christians experience the deep levels of unity Jesus intended (John 17). Through corporate intercession, we are newly connected to Christ, to each other and to Christ’s mission in the world.
- #4** A concert of prayer provides a way to **network the body of Christ within a church, a city or on a campus**. It helps us find one another across barriers, differences, spheres of influence and ministries that otherwise often divide us. It provides a neutral meeting ground. The Concert of Prayer becomes a shared focus through united praying through joint-ministries (Romans 12:1-5, 11-13).
- #5** A Concert of Prayer also offers **a training ground for mobilizing prayer throughout the body of Christ**. It naturally fosters a training environment for prayer and sharpens your prayer agenda in ministry, at home and every area

within God's family. A Concert of Prayer is both a workshop on prayer, as well as a ministry of prayer (see Luke 11:1). It trains the Church how to start prayer movements as God's servants in the work of His Kingdom.

**#6** Concerts of Prayer establish **priority and manageability**, both in format and in frequency. The Bible teaches we should "pray without ceasing." We must teach the church the importance of prayer and prioritizing this ministry by providing creative atmospheres for prayer in an organized format to keep the church engaged in prayer and anticipating God's answers.

**#7** A Concert of Prayer is more than an event. **It is a movement**—a process in which we are moving on from where things are (in us, in the Church, in the world) to where God desires and deserves things to be. We are involved in a long-term ministry, seeking long-term impact for the kingdom through united prayer. This requires that those who join in be persevering servants, consistently involved on a regular basis and actively inviting others to join with them as often as possible. (See Acts 1:14; 2:1, 42; 4:23-24)



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## Program Format

### Sample Format:

This format is for a 60 to 90-minute gathering. There is no limit to the variations of flow and themes, and the mix of prayer formats that can be put into a Concert of Prayer.

There are three main concert of prayer leaders. They are: **Scripture reader**, **Worship leader** and **Prayer leader**. There can be more, if needed.

### Order of Ceremonies

**Opening Scripture:** Nehemiah 8:1-12

**Opening Hymn or Song of Praise:**

After song, leader instructs participants to give short prayers of praise and thanks offered spontaneously from the group.

**Statement of Purpose:**

Brief teaching on the importance of united prayer. Break into small groups of 2 or 3 people for prayer to commit to prayer focus.

**Confession and Repentance:**

Scripture reading on confession and repentance.

Individuals take time alone to confess sins.

After 3 minutes, ask them to gather in groups of 2 or 3 to confess one to another.

After 3-5 minutes of prayer in groups, leader prays corporate prayer of confession.

Song of surrender and confession.

Declaration of God's forgiveness and grace.

**Intercession:** (Longest portion of program)

Scripture reading on intercession.

Prayer leader provides specific prayer requests for ministries, persons, church, city, etc.

Leader asks people to gather in groups of 5 to pray for specific requests.

After 3 minutes of prayer in groups, leader prays corporate prayer of intercession.

Song of intercession and hope.

**Worldwide Mission and Evangelism:**

Prayers for God's kingdom to advance to all the nations.

Prayers in groups of 7 to 12 for specific areas of need (consider providing prayer cards about unreached peoples of the world).

Open time of spontaneous prayers from the whole assembly for the advancement of the gospel.

Song or hymn with focus on world needs and worldwide mission.

**Prayers of Thanks:**

Scripture reading on thanks/thanksgiving.

Prayer leader leads in corporate prayer giving thanks and inviting people to the altar.

Song of thanks/thanksgiving.

**Prayers of Celebration:**

Scripture reading on celebration.

Prayer leader asks people to gather in circle signifying unity and prayer AGREEMENT.

Asks three church leaders to pray in celebration, declaration and BLESSING over the people.

Song of celebration and declaration.

**Closing Testimonies and Closing Prayer**



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## Scriptures

### **Psalm 5:3**

In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.

### **1 John 5:14-15**

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

### **Psalm 48:1**

Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain.

### **Hebrews 13:15**

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

### **John 10:27**

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

### **1 John 1:8-9**

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

### **Psalm 51:1-4**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

### **Psalm 42:1-4**

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, “Where is your God?” These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng.

### **Romans 8:1-4**

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you[a] free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh,[b] God

did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.[c] And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

### **Romans 8:18-27 - Present Suffering and Future Glory**

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that[a] the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.



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