

Our Response to God's Call to Ihopkc

I. IHOPKC MANDATES: OUR PRIMARY CALLING AND 5 SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS

- A. The primary calling for each ministry is to ***know God and to make Him known***, as they work together with others to ***obey the Great Commission*** and ***build the Church***. This includes proclaiming the supremacy of Jesus as we win the lost, make disciples, heal the sick, build godly families, do works of justice and compassion, and seek to impact each sphere of society.
- ¹⁹Go...make disciples of all the nations...²⁰teaching them to observe all things... (Mt. 28:19-20)*
- ¹⁸I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. (Mt. 16:18)*
- B. The Lord also gives specific assignments related to the Great Commission. Ours includes ***keeping a 24/7 sanctuary*** of worship with intercession in the spirit of the tabernacle of David (Ezek. 44:15). The spiritual atmosphere of cities is changed through 24/7 prayer. We contend for a greater breakthrough of God's power on the Church and society that results in renewing the Church, winning the lost, releasing justice in society, and healing the sick. We also seek a greater breakthrough of the Spirit for our hearts (in love and purity) and minds (revelation of the Word).
- ¹⁵But the priests...the sons of Zadok, who kept charge of My sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from Me, they shall come near Me to minister to Me. (Ezek. 44:15)*
- C. ***Why we keep a 24/7 sanctuary:*** To minister to God, release His power, and encounter His heart. In prayer, we contend for a breakthrough of power on our heart, ministry, and in revelation.
1. We ***minister to God*** by declaring His worth in an unceasing way on earth as a witness to how He is ministered to continually in heaven (Mt. 6:10). We believe the Lord is more fully restoring the office-order of full-time singers in the Body of Christ worldwide (1 Chr. 6:32).
³²They were ministering with music before the dwelling place of the tabernacle...and they served in their office according to their order. (1 Chron. 6:32)
 2. We ***labor in intercession*** to release God's power to win the lost, revive the Church, and transform society as we do works of justice and compassion. Changing the spiritual atmosphere results in a greater release of power for the harvest, justice, and healing, etc.
 3. We ***grow in intimacy with God*** by personally encountering Him by the indwelling Spirit. We receive greater grace to love and obey Him, as we are fascinated by who He is and by seeing the majestic beauty of God as our Father and of Jesus as the Bridegroom, King, and Judge.
 4. We ***grow in revelation of the Word*** gaining insight into His salvation, will, and ways.
- D. Being faithful in 24/7 prayer with worship is essential to the calling of Ihopkc. Receiving grace for prayer does not mean prayer is easy but that it is doable.

II. CONFRONTING INJUSTICE AND OPPRESSION

- A. Jesus linked the release of justice and deliverance from oppression to continual prayer (Lk. 18:7). He connected the timing of His return (Lk. 17:22-36) to the call to continual prayer (Lk. 18:1, 8). The release of revival and justice will continue to intensify, as well as sin and injustice, as we get closer to the Lord's return. The balance of victory is connected to persistence in prayer.

²⁶“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: ²⁷They ate, they drank...until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all...³⁰Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed...³⁶Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left.” ³⁷They...said, “Where, Lord?” He said to them, “Wherever the [dead, NIV] body is, there the eagles [vultures, NIV] will be gathered together.” (Lk. 17:26-37)

*¹Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart...
⁷“Shall God not avenge [bring justice for, NAS] His elect who cry out day and night to Him...?
⁸I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes [at the second coming], will He really find faith [agreement in prayer] on the earth?” (Lk. 18:7-8)*

- B. The spirit of prayer is our mightiest weapon to confront the spiritual forces behind injustice.

²I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. ³I ate no pleasant food...till three whole weeks were fulfilled...¹²Then he [an angel] said to me, “...for from the first day that you set your heart to...to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; I have come because of your words. ¹³But the [demonic] prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me...” (Dan. 10:2, 12-13)

- C. We are called to be strong in the face of demonic beings who are very powerful and invisible.

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might...¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts [armies] of wickedness in the heavenly places...¹⁷And take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance... (Eph. 6:10-18)

- D. Jesus gave the Church keys or authority to confront the gates of hell by prayer.

*¹⁸I will build My Church, and the gates of Hades [authority of hell] shall not prevail against it.
¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven... (Mt. 16:18-19)*

- E. As Moses released God's judgments on Pharaoh by prayer (Ex. 7-12), so the end-time Church by prayer will release the tribulation judgments on the Antichrist and his oppressive regime.

⁴The prayers of the saints ascended before God from the angel's hand. ⁵Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire...and threw it to the earth [on the oppressors]. (Rev. 8:4-5)

⁸Having a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. (Rev. 5:8)

- F. The increase of oppression against God's people (Rev. 6:9-11) will stir many to prayer. The prayers of the saints on earth will join with the prayers of the martyrs in heaven
- ⁹I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain [end-time martyrs] for the word of God...¹⁰They cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord...until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"...¹¹It was said to them that they should rest... until the number of their fellow servants...who would be killed...was completed.*** (Rev. 6:9-11)
- G. Isaiah gave a significant prophecy for the generation in which the Lord returns. The message is clear—in one generation, Jesus will sovereignly initiate new prayer ministries that will be sustained 24/7 until He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth at the time of Jesus' return.
- ⁶I have set watchmen [intercessors] on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace [be silent] day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, ⁷and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.*** (Isa. 62:6-7)
- H. **I have set:** God promised to set intercessors in place. The sudden massive number of new 24/7 prayer ministries that have started in the last 20 years is in itself a sign of the times. Because it is God who sets the intercessor in place therefore, the setting is sacred. Without understanding being sovereignly set by God as an intercessor, our commitment to prayer is not sustainable.
1. Over ten thousand 24/7 prayer watches have sprung up in the last 20 years. The significant increase in the number of prayer events in stadiums, new prayer ministries, and 24/7 prayer rooms is unusual. This great acceleration started around 1990.
 2. The Call2All congresses led by Mark Anderson include church leaders, [missions leaders](#), and [prayer leaders](#) working together to complete the task of *bringing the gospel to every nation* and to see *24/7 prayer with worship arising from every tribe and tongue*. In the last four years, leaders from 150 nations gathering in the 20 different Call2All congresses have committed to start over **700,000 new houses of prayer** by 2020.
- I. **Watchmen:** The watchmen are teams of intercessors who continually remind God of His promises. We know these are teams because one person cannot continue 24/7 every day.
- J. **Make mention:** Isaiah described the work of intercession as *making mention* of God's promises. In place of the phrase "*who make mention,*" some translations say "*who call on the Lord,*" (NIV) or "*who remind the Lord*" (NAS). Intercession includes reminding God of His promises.
- K. Isaiah connected the release of justice to God hearing the prayers of His people. Prayer is the issue that is most described in the prophetic scriptures and in the activities in heaven.
- ¹⁸The LORD will wait, that He may be gracious to you...the LORD is a God of justice...¹⁹He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.*** (Isa. 30:18-19)

III. PRAYER AND THE SPIRIT OF GRACE

- A. There is a dynamic connection between growing in grace and the spirit of prayer. The spirit of prayer is our mightiest weapon and the most significant missing element in the Church today. We can grow in grace and the grace of prayer to function with the spirit of prayer (2 Pet. 3:18)
- ¹⁰I will pour on...the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication [prayer]; then they will look on Me whom they have pierced; they will mourn for Him... (Zech. 12:10)*
- ²⁶The Spirit helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for...but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. (Rom. 8:26)*
- B. It is essential that we define grace in a biblical way. Paul described the cycle of grace in Romans 11:36—God initiates, His people respond, and God responds to their response. God gives to us and we respond to it, and then He gives more to us. We receive grace that equips us to press into God, which positions us to receive more grace, which leads us to press in to God even more, etc. We magnify God's grace by receiving it in a way that motivates us to press into God.
- ³⁶For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory... (Rom. 11:36)*
- ¹²I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.*
¹³Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 3:12-14)
- C. By receiving God's love at the new birth, we are each equipped to respond to God and people "in love, with perseverance," i.e. to press into God with all of our strength. Paul's model is that God reveals His love to awaken love in us with the perseverance of Jesus. Jesus' perseverance speaks of His dedication to God and people. The model is receiving love unto love with perseverance.
- ³Pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified...⁵May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience [perseverance] of Christ. (2 Thes. 3:1-5)*
- D. We can receive grace in vain by receiving it without it leading us to press in to receive more.
- We...plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. (2 Cor. 6:1)*
1. **Deficient grace message:** Freely receiving God's love to receive salvation, but then seeking to maintain it by earning it by our spiritual disciplines with the spirit of legalism.
 2. **Distorted grace message:** To give people confidence to live in passivity and compromise.
- E. The biblical grace message gives us confidence in God and enables us to walk in diligence (perseverance) in our relationship with Jesus. The "primary question" that we ask in our relationship with Jesus tells us if we hold to the biblical grace message or distorted grace. If we are asking "How can I give myself more to Jesus or how can I give myself less to Jesus?" or "How can I give myself more?" that will tell you the nature of grace that you are embracing.