

The House of Prayer

I want to share what’s happening here on Friday nights. We’re on 40 days of seeking the Lord, and we will come together on Friday nights.

THE WATCH OF THE LORD

We call this Friday night meeting “The Watch of the Lord.” It started in August 1996. The watch is a time of lingering in the presence of the Lord. The watch begins at 7:00pm. We have a 7:00–9:00pm team, a 9:00pm–2:00am team, and a 2:00–5:00am team. There are about 100 people involved in the whole thing. It is only in embryonic form. We present ourselves to the Lord on Friday night.

Isaiah 62

God is speaking Isaiah 62: “For Zion’s sake I will not hold My peace, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns” (Isa. 62:1).

It’s been a small beginning over the last six months, but it’s been a good beginning. We’ve not even wanted to announce it to the body. We announced once on a Sunday that we had a Friday night watch, and then made brief references to it, because we wanted to just do it for a while before we talked about it publicly.

THE HOUSE OF PRAYER WILL ARISE ACROSS THE EARTH

My prayer is that God will use this **40 days of seeking the Lord to establish the watch** at MCF at the next level. The house of prayer is going to go night and day across the nations of the earth.

A Facility for Night-and-Day Prayer

I believe that some of you are going to be stirred up to this thing called the watch of the Lord. We believe that we’re going to have a facility, an actual building. We’re going to set it apart, not for normal church meetings, but for worship and intercession, night and day, seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

Worshippers and Intercessors Will Come

In 1983 the Lord spoke to us about the house of prayer. He gave us this promise that he would gather worshippers and intercessors together, and that we would see them arranged and set in order by the Holy Spirit in a way that night and day, literally seven days a week, the fire on the altar would not go out.

Now it doesn’t start seven days a week. We’ve been doing it for years—morning prayer meetings, mid-morning prayer meetings, and evening prayer meetings. **We’ve done it for nearly 15 years on a near daily basis.**

The Lord gave us a little tug last summer and **said it’s time to go to the next step.** So we began one night a week of waiting on the Lord, just coming to minister to the Lord.

Ezekiel 44:15—Ministry to the Lord

There’s a verse that I’ll just quote from Ezekiel 44: ““But the priests, the Levites, 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; and they shall stand before Me to offer to Me the fat and the blood,” says the Lord GOD” (Ezek. 44:15).

That’s a favorite verse of intercessors. The priests of Zadok were a special class of the priesthood of Israel, to whom God said, “I’m going to set apart the priests of Zadok strictly to minister to me.”

Psalm 134

The servants who bless the name and the heart of God through the night in the house of the Lord—it’s that anointing of the priests of Zadok. Isn’t that something that God wants part of the ministry of the Church to be—simply ministry to him? Not because He needs it, but because He enjoys it—the chord of pleasure that is struck in His heart by worshipers who just say, “I love You.”

In 1983 God promised us that He would do this in our midst. He promised it back in 1983–84: you *will* see the house of prayer established in this way. *He will bring intercessors and worshipers from across the earth.*

THE HARP AND BOWL—WORSHIP AND INTERCESSION

“Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints” (Rev. 5:8).

Revelation 5:8

This verse describes two ministries going forth before the throne of God in eternity. The living creatures and elders gather before the Lord with a harp in one hand, and what do they have in the other hand? Revelation 5:8 says they came with a **harp and a golden bowl**, and it says right there in verse 8 of chapter 5 that the incense is the prayers of the saints. The prayers of the saints in the golden bowls are intercession. The harp speaks of worship. It’s a fragrance, like worship is a fragrance. Worship and intercession have a special fragrance in the presence of God. And it says they’re going to gather the prayers in the golden bowls, and the worship and intercession will be mingled together.

God’s going to bring the worshipers and the intercessors together, fueled by the prophetic, because God said: I will not keep silent; My word will go forth out of my heart; it will fuel this whole thing. Those who stand before the presence of the Lord night and day to minister to him and intercede—He is going to make them joyful in the house of prayer.

Isaiah 56:6-7

“Also the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, and *to love the name of the Lord*, to be His servants—everyone who keeps from defiling the sabbath, and holds fast My covenant—even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and *make them joyful in My house of prayer* . . . for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations” (Isa. 56:6-7).

THE PROMISE OF A 24/7 HOUSE OF PRAYER IN KANSAS CITY

There’s a distinct anointing for this in the house of prayer for the nations of the world. And God’s going to do that. He’s promised us that He would do that.

And He’s promised in some very dramatic ways to give us the facility. As I share, six weeks in a row, from the prophetic history during this 40-day fast, I hope to spend a whole evening on the subject of some of the promises that God gave about his house of prayer. It’s fantastic! Speaking personally, not as a pastor, this is the most exciting and significant ministry that God has promised us as a people. Many things are exciting. I’m not speaking as the pastor of the church. I’m speaking as an individual.

Nothing moves my heart more than the promise that a fragrant ministry to the Lord will go forth 24 hours a day out of Kansas City, and that we will be in partnership in intercession with Him for the nations of the earth.

Let's look at Mark 14, then we will go back into worship and intercession. *I'd like us to intercede tonight for the house of prayer to be established and built.* I invite some of you to ask the Lord to build the house of prayer in Kansas City—I mean the 24-hour-a-day thing.

The Lord has given us clarity about having a school of worship and a school of intercession, where interns will come from around America to be trained in worship and intercession. I think that God's going to gather those who will be trained in a formal one-year school in the days to come. I think that all kinds of things will happen in that context, just like we're doing with the youth right now. It's kind of exciting.

Extravagant worship

In Mark 14:3-9, Mark tells us that Mary breaks in and does this extravagant act of worship. They were mad with her. For a season, I believe part of the Church will be indignant at the waste of man-hours that will fill a house of prayer, seven days a week, night and day.

Verse 6: Jesus said, "Let her alone." And He said, "Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work *for Me.*" I like the phrase "for Me." I think of Ezekiel 44:15—the priests of Zadok, who ministered to the Lord. I think of Mary's act of extravagant worship that touched Jesus' heart before He went to the cross. I think of Him saying, "For Me she has ministered. This kind of devotion is a down payment. That's why I'm dying to have a whole race of people like this dwelling with me in eternity. And she was the 'first fruits' that broke through in extravagant worship before the Lord. Let her alone, she did it for Me!"

I like to call intercession a good work. But worship is for the Lord. The priests of Zadok ministered to the Lord in Ezekiel 44:15, and these foreigners in Isaiah 56:6 that I quoted earlier, they come *to love the name of the Lord.* It's for Him.

It's only embryonic here at the moment, but there are a hundred of us—we *have the title deed in our heart.* No devil in hell can take this out of the hands of God's people. And there are a hundred believers in this church who already have the title deed.

There will be a house of prayer. It will go forth. It will be a good work called intercession. I believe that all over the nations of the earth there will be houses of prayer. There may be five of them in this city. Who knows? I don't know any of that stuff. I have no insight on how many of these there will be in Kansas City.

All I know is that God has given us a commissioning, and will give us the anointing to see a house of prayer established: the setting of watchmen who are worshipers—worshiping watchmen—worshiping warriors, set by God's Spirit on the wall, who won't be quiet, because the prophetic word that came out of God's heart has not been silent. No devil, no hierarchy, no religious leaders—nobody can keep them quiet. Nobody can. And for those of you who want to take it a step further, I won't develop the verses, but Psalm 132:1-5, that's the heart that David had. And in Amos 9:15, God says He's going to restore the tabernacle of David in the last days. Again, that's for another time, but maybe there are some of you who would like to study it out for yourselves. God's going to bring that heart back.

So worship team, come on up. Sometimes we'll worship for 30 minutes to an hour. Let's just love Jesus. We love You! That priest of Zadok anointing. We love You! We minister to the name of the Lord.

On Friday nights, for about 30 or 45 minutes, we will have two or three people intercede for revival, then worship 5 or 10 minutes. We will do intercession for 30 minutes to an hour, and then we go to another hour of worship.

The next six Friday nights will be different in our 40-day fast. Typically, there are about 15–30 people who pray for Israel from 7:00–9:00pm. That’s the first stage of the watch. Then at 9:00pm another group comes in, and we worship from 9:00pm–2:00am. We just worship and intercede throughout the night. Then at 2:00am the next shift comes in.

I’m asking you to pray for the establishing of the house of prayer in Kansas City. Or if that’s not on your heart, you can just pray for the general breaking forth of God’s Spirit upon this city and on this church, because that’s what this fast is about. Thank you!