

## Understanding the House of Prayer

What is a house of prayer?

A house of prayer is a place of day and night ministry to God through worship and prayer.

What is the point of a house of prayer?

1. To create a dwelling place for the Lord in a city
2. To minister to the Lord night and day
3. To create a place where people can seek and inquire of the Lord night and day
4. To shift the spiritual atmosphere of a city/region
5. To intercede for a city/region

Is it in the Bible?

Yes!

1. The phrase “house of prayer” is used in Isaiah 56:7
  - a. Isaiah 56:7 is specifically referring to the millennial temple, the place of Jesus’ dwelling and rulership during the millennial reign once He returns
  - b. Jesus quotes this verse when cleansing the temple after the triumphal entry (Matthew 21:13)
2. The center of God’s people has always been God dwelling in their midst through ministry to Him day and night
  - a. Moses’ Tabernacle
    - i. God promised to dwell in the midst of Israel as the priests ministered to Him daily with the sacrifices and offerings (Exodus 29:38-46)
    - ii. Daily offerings were incense and burnt offerings in the morning and in the evening (day and night) and there was always to be fire on the altar (Exodus 29:38-42, Exodus 30:7-88, Leviticus 6:13)
  - b. David’s Tabernacle
    - i. Musicians ministered to the Lord continually (24/7) with music and song (1 Chronicles 9:33, 1 Chronicles 16:37, 1 Chronicles 23-25, 1 Chronicles 23:3-5)
      1. There were 4,000 Levites that worked full-time praising the Lord with musical instruments and song (1 Chronicles 23:5, 1 Chronicles 9:33, 1 Chronicles 16:37)
    - ii. Moses’ Tabernacle was still happening during the time of David’s Tabernacle (1 Chronicles 16:39-40)
  - c. Solomon’s temple
    - i. This put both Moses’ Tabernacle and David’s Tabernacle in the same place so both animal sacrifice, incense and musical ministry all day and night happened in the same place (24/7) (2 Chronicles 7:6-7)

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- d. Heaven
  - i. God is on the throne and there is ministry (worship) to Him that never ceases from the four living creatures and the the elders (Revelation 4:8-11)
  - ii. If we want on earth as it is in heaven, then, in part, we need to do on earth as it is in heaven

Why do a house of prayer (day and night worship and prayer)?

1. God likes it because it is ministry to Him and it moves Him
  - a. The priests were occupied full time to minister to Him (Exodus 28)
  - b. God calls the burnt offering a pleasing or sweet aroma to Him (Exodus 29:41)
  - c. God refers to the incense as sweet as well (Exodus 30:7,34)
  - d. Our gaze upon God moves His heart (Song of Solomon 4:9 & 6:5)
  - e. The music of the strings make Him glad (Psalm 45:8)
  - f. God is looking for people to seek Him (Psalm 14:2, Psalm 53:2)
2. We love God (devotional aspect)
  - a. It is an expression of the first and greatest commandment (Matthew 22:34-40, Exodus 20:1-7)
  - b. Because we love God, we love to be with Him and long to be with Him (Psalm 27:4, Luke 10:38-42, Psalm 16:11, Psalm 84:1-2,10, Psalm 26:8)
  - c. Because we love God we pour out or love and devotion on Him like Mary (Mark 14:3-9)
3. God is worthy of it (Psalm 113:1-3, Psalm 96:4, Psalm 92:1, Psalm 147:1, Revelation 4:11, Revelation 5:9,12)
  - a. He is worthy because of His nature and character (Revelation 4:8, Isaiah 6:3)
  - b. He is worthy because of what He has done
    - i. He created all things (Revelation 4:11)
    - ii. He redeemed all things (Revelation 5:9-10,12,13)
4. God is after our praise and worship
  - a. The first commands to Israel were about worship (Exodus 20:1-7,22-26)
  - b. Receiving their worship and praise is one of the reasons God creates Israel (Exodus 19:6-7, Isaiah 43:21)
  - c. At the end of the age the distinguishing factor between people will be who they worship (Revelation 13:4,12)
  - d. Our worship and praise is actually one of the main reasons God redeems us
    - i. He set Israel free from Egypt so they could worship Him in the wilderness (Exodus 5:1-3, Exodus 7:16)
    - ii. He sets Israel free from captivity to Babylon so that they can rebuild the temple and re-establish day and night worship (Ezra 1:2-4, Haggai 1:1-11)
    - iii. It is why He saves the Gentiles (Isaiah 42:8)
    - iv. It is why He chose to not completely destroy Israel (Isaiah 48:9)
    - v. Peter echoes that it is why He redeemed us (1 Peter 2:9)
5. God wants to be with us and dwell in the midst of His people
  - a. Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:8)

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- b. Tabernacle of Moses (Exodus 29:38-46)
  - c. Tabernacle of David (1 Chronicles 9:33, 1 Chronicles 16:37, 1 Chronicles 23-25, 1 Chronicles 23:3-5)
  - d. Solomon's Temple (2 Chronicles 7:6-7)
  - e. Second Temple (Ezra 1:2-4, Ezra 7:13-18)
  - f. Jesus (John 1:14)
    - i. The word for dwelled among us literally means tabernacled
  - g. Us (1 Corinthians 6:19, Ephesians 2:19-22)
  - h. Reestablished David's tabernacle (Amos 9:11, Isaiah 16:5)
  - i. Millennial Temple (Ezekiel 40-48, Ezekiel 48:35, Zechariah 6:12-13)
  - j. New heaven/ New Earth (Revelation 21)
  - k. Jesus' desire is that we would be with Him where He is (John 14:1-4, John 17:24)
  - l. David knew that God wanted to dwell in their midst and that is why David committed and made a vow to the Lord that he would build Him a permanent house no matter what the cost (Psalm 132:2-5, 1 Chronicles 17:1, 2 Samuel 7:2)
6. God's presence changes everything (which is part of why He wants to be in our midst and why we want Him to be in our midst)
- a. His Presence is how He delivers
    - i. He delivered Israel from Egypt by His Presence (Deuteronomy 4:37)
    - ii. Jesus delivered the earth from sin and death by coming in our midst (John 1:14)
    - iii. When Saul had a distressing spirit from the Lord, he had David come play the harp and the spirit would leave while David played (1 Samuel 16:22-23)
      - 1. It wasn't just David's skill that made Saul feel better, it was the presence and anointing of God that would come as he played
  - b. His Presence destroys idols (both in our heart and the region)
    - i. When the ark was captured by the Philistines and put in their temple, the Lord cut the head off the idol in the temple and no one went back there (1 Samuel 5:1-7)
  - c. His Presence refreshes, strengthens, and satisfies us (Psalm 16:11, Psalm 63:5, Ephesians 3:16-17)
7. Day and Night worship, prayer, and Bible reading is good for our hearts
- a. We grow in our love for the Lord and knowledge of Him as we spend time with Him and read His word
  - b. We get transformed, encouraged, and overcome sin by looking at the Lord (2 Corinthians 3:18, Colossians 2:20-3:1-2, Hebrews 12:1-4)
  - c. It is our delight to stare at His beauty (Psalm 27:4, Revelation 4)
  - d. Being with Him is how we bear fruit (John 15:1-8, Psalm 92:13-15)
8. God promised there would be day and night worship and prayer all across the earth leading up to His return (Malachi 1:11, Amos 9:11/ Acts 15:6, Isaiah 62)
9. We are primarily to live as priests
- a. Israel's original calling was to be a kingdom of priests (Exodus 19:5-6)
  - b. The priests first priority was to minister to God (Exodus 28:1-4)

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- i. They did that through offering sacrifices on the altar of burnt offering and incense on the altar of incense, both were to be kept going at all times (Exodus 29:38-41, Exodus 30:7-8)
    1. At different times both are referred to a pleasing or sweet aroma to the Lord
  - ii. David saw that it was not sacrifices of animals that the Lord was really after (Psalm 50:7-15, Psalm 51:16-17), but that they were representative of our praise, thanksgiving and prayers so he instituted day and night musical worship, praise and prayer
    1. Our prayers are like incense (Psalm 141:2, Revelation 5:8)
    2. Burnt offerings were representative of worship/praise/thanksgiving (Psalm 141:2, 1 Chronicles 23:30-31, Hebrews 13:15, Psalm 50:14, Psalm 107:22, Psalm 116:17, Psalm 27:6, Jeremiah 17:26, Jeremiah 33:11)
  - c. Jesus' sacrifice initiated a new priesthood
    - i. If you look at what was done for the sacrifices to initiate Aaron and his family to be priests in Exodus 29 and Leviticus 8/9 and compare it to what happened to Jesus on the cross, it is very similar
    - ii. Also the book of Hebrews goes to great lengths to show that Jesus is the High Priest after the order of Melchizedek and now there is a new priesthood (Hebrews 5-9)
  - d. The New Testament makes it very clear that we are to see ourselves as priests and operate in that calling (1 Peter 2:5,9; Revelation 1:6, Revelation 5:10, Revelation 20:6)
    - i. The church at Antioch in Acts 13 lived this lifestyle of day and night worship and prayer. Acts 13:2 says they were worshiping or serving or ministering to the Lord. The word used there is the same word that is used in Greek to describe the priestly ministry in the Old Testament in the Septuagint (Old Testament in Greek). Therefore the author is pointing to the fact the church community in Acts was doing the continual priestly ministry. The church in Antioch is to be a pattern for us.
    - ii. Therefore every believer is called to consistently and regularly minister to the Lord
  - e. When we do not take the priestly calling seriously everything else goes wrong
    - i. Hezekiah's first action when he became king was to exhort the priesthood to do their job because all the disasters had come upon Israel because they had not done their job correctly (2 Chronicles 29:3-11)
  - f. Ministering to God is the highest privilege that we have as humans, even more than ministering to man (though important) and should be regarded as holy and precious (Ezekiel 44:10-16)
10. Day and night worship and prayer is how God establishes His government
- a. By government I mean His rule and authority and how His plans and purposes go forth in an individual, community, region, and nation

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- b. We see that God is seated on His throne in heaven surrounded by day and night worship and prayer. His throne is not only the place of His presence, but also the place of His rule and authority so His commands, decrees, and purposes go forth from the throne (Revelation 4 & 5)
  - c. We see that Jesus is going to rule from His throne in the Millennial Reign in a temple with day and night worship and prayer (Psalm 2:4-12, Ezekiel 43:7, Zechariah 6:12-13, Isaiah 66:21-23, Zechariah 14:16, Zechariah 8:20-22, Ezekiel 40:44, Amos 9:11, Isaiah 2:3)
  - d. If it is true in heaven right now and will be true of Jesus in the Millennial Reign, the same must be true on earth right now, wherever His throne is established, not only does His presence live there, but His government goes forth from there as well. This was true of Israel and the ark of the covenant. Wherever the ark was, was where they would go to inquire of the Lord and hear what to do and hear His strategy. The ark was in the tabernacle of Moses, then the tabernacle of David, and then the temple.
    - i. All of those places had day and night worship and prayer or ministry to God just like in heaven
    - ii. We see that the way to establish God's throne on earth is through our praise (Psalm 22:3) therefore, the more we praise and pray the more He rules and His government goes forth.
    - iii. In fact in the end times, God is going to execute His judgement on the nations at the sound of the songs and music of His people (Isaiah 30:30-32, Psalm 149:5-8)
      - 1. Songs being the way God executes His judgement in the end times is seen in the book of Revelation, before and after every transition of scenes in the book of Revelation there is a song that is sung praising what God has done and releasing the next scene (Revelation 4:8-11, Revelation 5:9-13, Revelation 7:12, Revelation 11:17-18, Revelation 14:2-3, Revelation 15:2-4, Revelation 19:1-7)
      - 2. A repeated successful battle strategy of Israel was to worship the Lord (2 Chronicles 20:20-30, Joshua 6, Exodus 17:10-13)
  - e. Hezekiah believed that the key to Israel returning to the favor of the Lord and His commands was to exhort the priesthood to do their job and be pure and it was his first order of business. For the priesthood to do their job would be to reestablish day and night worship and prayer. (2 Chronicles 29:3-30)
11. We are consistently called in New Testament to live lives of consistent prayer
- a. God promises to bring justice and deliverance as we cry out night and day (Luke 18:1-8)
  - b. In teaching us to pray, Jesus encourages us to be persistent (Luke 11:1-13)
  - c. Paul commands us to pray without ceasing and he did so himself (1 Thessalonians 5:17, Colossians 1:3,9)
12. When God is looking to save and extend mercy to a people, He looks for people to pray
- a. (2 Chronicles 7:13-14, Ezekiel 22:29-30, Isaiah 59:15-16, Deuteronomy 9:12-29, Exodus 2:23-25, Daniel 9:12-14)

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13. Day and night worship and prayer aides in Evangelism
  - a. God promises to reestablish the tabernacle of David (day and night worship and prayer) so that the rest of mankind can seek Him (Amos 9:11/Acts 16:15)
    - i. As we sing to the Lord consistently in an area it causes people to seek the Lord and find Him
  - b. Malachi 1:11 establishes this fact even further. As we make His name great night and day in worship and prayer, His name begins to come great in an area and then people find the Lord and then they join in the song.
  - c. The Bible states that we do not wrestle with flesh and blood, but principalities and powers and that there is a spirit of this age that blinds people's eyes to light of the gospel. (Ephesians 6:12 and 2 Corinthians 4:4) In order to address those in people's lives and cities, we must pray.
14. Facilitates Unity in the body of Christ in a city
  - a. In John 17, before Jesus prayed for us to be one, He asked the Father to glorify Himself. As we glorify Jesus together, we become one and united together. (John 17, Ephesians 2:19-22)

What does one do on staff at a house of prayer?

1. Engage with the Lord
  - a. Personal prayer
  - b. Personal devotional time in the word
2. Worship
  - a. Devotional sets (songs of love and adoration)
  - b. Worship with the Word (singing the scriptures back to God)
3. Intercession
  - a. Praying for specific topics that God is assigned to the community
4. Doorkeeping
  - a. Making sure people feel welcomed
  - b. Making sure everything is clean and tidy
  - c. Letting people into the room
5. Administrative things
  - a. Schedule worship and prayer leaders
6. Share vision and invite others to come seek the Lord together at the House of Prayer

Are there any Houses of Prayer in the Earth?

Yes! There are many, some are 24/7 and others are doing various hours. Below are a few houses of prayer and ministries focusing on day and night worship and prayer:

1. IHOPKC (International House of Prayer Kansas City)
2. Gate City Church (Atlanta)
3. PIHOP (Pasadena International House of Prayer)
4. Upperroom (Dallas)

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5. David's Tent DC (24/7 prayer tent on national mall)
6. Burn 24/7
7. Awaken the Dawn
8. Succat Hallel (24/7 prayer in Jerusalem)
9. 24-7 prayer