

Why pray in groups?

1. Jesus had a small group pray for Him.

Mark 14:32-33. “And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, ‘Sit here while I pray.’ And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled.”

2. Group prayer is the way the early church prayed.

Acts 12:5, 12. “So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church... When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.”

3. Group prayer fosters agreement in prayer.

Matthew 18:18-20. “Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

4. Group prayer releases God’s power.

Acts 4:31. “And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”

5. Group prayer is the key to mission.

Acts 13:1-3. “Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.”

6. Group prayer magnifies prayer.

Leviticus 26:8. “Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall chase ten thousand, and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.”

7. Group prayer strengthens our unity in Christ.

John 17:22-23. “The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one. I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”

Charles Finney: “Nothing tends more to cement the hearts of Christians than praying together. Never do they love one another so well as when they witness the outpouring of each other’s hearts in prayer.”

8. Group prayer broadens and enriches the range of prayer for a particular concern.

It enables the Holy Spirit to entwine the discernment, insights and experiences of each person praying, so that a concern is being prayed for from more than one strategic point of view.

9. Group prayer deepens our life in Christ and enhances our growth.

Wesley Duewel: “The more you hear others joining in prayer for the same needs, the stronger your faith tends to become. You become encouraged by the way God is giving faith to them. You become more persevering and more constant in prayer for the need as you find others persevering for the same concern. Heart warms heart. Prayer kindles prayer. Faith strengthens faith. Courage and expectance rise, and you are able to plant your feet on God’s promises with new firmness and determination. Others “amen” your prayer, and you “amen” theirs and step by step you both grow in assurance, lay hold of the throne of God, and are able to agree in prayer.”
(*Mighty Prevailing Prayer*, page 132)

10. Group prayer was the foundation of all the great revivals in history.