

Why Pray Together

Unity is powerful.

• Remember the ancient Biblical story of the Tower of Babel where men sought to come together to thwart God and his purposes? They were building something, and they had a common mission, vision, and a common language. "Come let us build for ourselves a city and a tower whose top will reach into heaven and let us make for ourselves a name." Unity is powerful. We have a common mission and vision: to see every believer living free and fruitful in Christ. And when we use the common language of the Bible in praise, in thanksgiving, confession, and intercession powerful things happen.

Corporate prayer offsets corporate opposition.

 Ephesians 6 tells us that the enemy is organized. He has principalities, rules, and authorities. We are told that our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world force of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. And we need to organize a prayer army to stand in God's victory over this spiritual army of darkness.

Corporate prayer ensures comprehensive prayer.

 A type A personality is going to pray differently than a "golden retriever" personality. A person with the spiritual gift of administration prays differently over the same request as a believer with the gift of giving. It's like seeing God through different lenses just as we do in the four Gospels written by four individuals. God gets greatest glory when diverse things are brought together!

Corporate prayer empowers the person praying for and the one with the request.

• One of the best illustrations in Scripture is the four men who brought the paralytic together to Jesus in Mark 2. It was a burden too heavy for one person, but one that four people together could share. Our burdens grow lighter as we pray.

