

Go Church Prayer Points

15 – 22nd January 2017

Prayer Point 1

Pray that God positions you aright so that you may be sent out. Pray this over yourself and the people in church and also the backslidden.

There is a reason why some people are sent out. They positioned themselves aright when they didn't have the ball. Are you in a position where the ball can be passed to you. In rugby there is no point in calling for the ball when you are not in a position to receive it. In soccer you often see people waving for the ball to be passed to them but they are in an awkward position.

I declare over you that this year you will function from the right position. Your progress in God will be determined by the degree to which you continuously choose to reposition yourself to function from God's wisdom and pattern and leave the world's pattern behind.

Much of the debate around players is whether they are in the right position. Do they play well from the middle or as a wide player? There needs to be this type of discussion around our daily lives. Many are experts at analyzing how coaches are playing people in the wrong positions yet in our everyday lives many of us are not well positioned.

Great soccer teams are good at reorganizing themselves. It's about getting back to their correct positions. They are able to do this because they know their formation. They know their position. I would like to propose to you that success in life has largely to do with how you are positioned. And how you are positioned is largely to do with YOU. You position yourself.

How do you relate to your wife, husband, brothers, and parents? In the army in order to be effective, positions have to be clear. This is not something rigid but something we choose. When you have a revelation of the correct position someone holds in your life it affects the relationship and also your effectiveness.

I asked my wife about her roses and what she has learned with regards to them. She said they need water, they need to be pruned and they need sunlight. They speaks to me of positioning.

Have you placed yourself in a position where there is sunlight for you and water for you? Have you place yourself where you can be pruned. Some of you are being pruned but it may look to outsiders like failure.

God expects you to position yourself. Not many people start off in the right position there a large part of our decision making is to do with REPOSITIONING OURSELVES.

Prayer Point 2

Pray that as a people we embrace God's ways and are completely delivered from the world's patterns. Pray that we run to God as our only source.

1 Cor 1:18-20

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." 20Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?...

Blaise Pascal said "There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every man."

St. Augustine said "Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee."

Our journey in life is largely about shifting from vain attempts to quench our thirst from other sources and running to God and His Kingdom ways. I call this process REPOSITIONING. Why do we end up where we are in life? Is it luck? Is it genetics? How you answer this question will determine your values, attitude and behavior.

Prayer Point 3

Pray that there is right positioning in all the marriages in the church. Declare the scriptures below over all the marriages in the church. Pray also for the single people, that God leads them into the right relationships and marriages. Pray that men and women in the church relate to each other in purity and in a healthy manner.

1 Peter 3:7

Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Do you see your wife as a joint heir or just a cook or someone you share a bed with or the mother of your kids?

Ephesians 5:21-23

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23For the husband is head of the wife, just as Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior....

Submission is an attitude and behavior but it stems from right positioning. The Greek word Hypotasso is to do with right positioning.

hypotássō (from 5259 /hypó, "under" and 5021 /tássō, "arrange") – properly, "under God's arrangement," i.e. *submitting to the Lord* (His plan).

You position yourself voluntarily.

If you are single, how are you positioned with regards to the opposite sex?

Pray Point 4

Pray that we would all relate in a godly manner toward our spiritual leaders. Pray prayers of repentance where this has not been so. This can be in the form of identificational repentance on behalf of the church. Declare the verses below over the church. Stand in the gap as an intercessor on behalf of all those who fear church leaders and cannot relate.

Hebrews 13:17

Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

As a leader I have to ask myself, how am I positioned in relations to these people. Am I just teaching them or am I watching over them?

Matthew 10:41-42

He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. ⁴² And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold *water* in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

Prayer Point 5

Pray for all the parents in the church that they would reflect God's heart and balance in parenting. Pray that parents are healed from an unhealthy views of parenting. Pray for a deepened understanding of the biblical view of parenting.

Pray for those parents who are not in agreement with their spouses with regards to parenting. Pray that all parents embrace the healthy authoritative parenting style and become aware of the dangers of the other styles mentioned below. Pray that a generation of healthy and whole children are raised in our church.

Proverbs 22:6

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Human beings are poor predictors of what will make them happy.

It does not say, train up a child in the ways of the world and hopefully somewhere along the way he will get his mind renewed and learn godly values, and discover his destiny.

The scriptures point them in a particular direction but the songs they listen in a different direction.

- Parents have the primary responsibility to educate their children
- The church has the secondary responsibility in education
- The State is not responsible for the education of children
- Biblical Christian education and parenting should not be left to chance

In *Bringing up Boys* James Dobson says that with boys in particular you actually have to be very intentional about keeping them civilised and helping them to be civilised. There is something about fallen man that degenerates to being uncivilised. We have to be intentional because societies have become uncivilised when churches are not strong and when families are not strong. The moment there is an attack on the family unit, society can be destroyed. We are seeing it today in many nations. Will Durant says from barbarism to civilisation requires a century but from civilisation to barbarism needs but a day.

Strategies have been developed to help children to use their heads not their fists in problem solving. Sometimes fighting is the result of intellectual laziness.

Diana Baumrind and others developed and popularized the notion of four basic parenting styles. What is your primary style? How are you positioned and what's the impact it's having on your kids? How does your style cooperate with your spouse's? Be careful of compensation parenting. This is a mindset that goes to the opposite extreme of what they grew up with. Some couples compensate for the behavior of their spouse.

- **Authoritative** (Strong on discipline and strong on affection. Nurturing. Healthy boundaries).

Kids are happy, capable and successful. Requests are seen as fair and reasonable therefore they internalize them as their own.

- **Authoritarian** (My way or the high way. Do this because I say so. No explanation of the rules, status oriented, fear of punishment).

Kids are obedient and proficient but low in happiness, social competence, and self-esteem.

Let your kids use their imagination through play, as this has been found to also help them academically.

- **Permissive** (More like a friend. Affectionate but non assertive. No significant rules. Freedom with little or no responsibility). Children don't actually want limitless freedom with no boundaries. High on affection but no discipline. The parent might have given up trying with regards to discipline.

Low levels of happiness and self-regulation. Lower performance at school. More likely to struggle with authority figures.

- **Uninvolved/Absent** (detached, self-absorbed, indifferent, low affection and low discipline).

Lower self-control, low self-esteem, less competent

What are you like as a result of how your parents were positioned in their parenting?

Prayer Point 6

Pray for the people of God to have a healthy relationship with the church. Pray for all those who are not involved in serving to discover their area of service. Pray against lies that people believe blocking them from fellowship. Declare the pattern of the early church in Acts 2 over Go Church. Pray for fruitfulness and competence in ministry for believers in Go Church.

Acts 2:41-43

1Those who embraced his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to the believers that day. 2They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 3A sense of awe came over everyone, and the apostles performed many wonders and signs....

The New Testament pattern is that they were added and devoted. You will always have something you are devoted to.

Devotion in dictionary means zealous or ardent in attachment, loyalty, or affection. In the Greek it means to attend constantly.

What's your relationship with the local church? Have you been counted in or are you just an observer. Don't make this year like last year. Your kids eat with you all the time and you always count them in for dinner. If you can skip for a while it probably means you didn't have a people spot. I was blessed meeting with the media team because they carry the church in their hearts.

Are you part of the body? Can you be a Christian and not go to church? Yes, but it's an aberration. *An aberration is the act of departing from the right, normal, or usual course.* If you see a dismembered body you get search parties to piece it back together. We need to do that with people in the Body of Christ. Don't let your theology and your ecclesiology be determined by how you feel in your soulish self. The starting point should always be the Word of God.

What are God's expectations of your positioning in relation to the church?

- You have found a People Spot
 - You are being fruitful
You are competent and fruitful in ministry (teaching one another, administering baptisms, healing the sick, worshiping and prayer, reaching the lost, establishing a kingdom community).
- John 15:16**
¹⁶ **You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.**
- You are accountable
Are you being pastored?

Acts 18:24-27

Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. 25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervour and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately. 27 When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers and sisters encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. When he arrived, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed.