

WHY OHOP AND WHY 24-7 PRAYER

Re-evaluating our core values

Introduction

What we now know as the Orlando House of Prayer (OHOP) came about out of a personal encounter that I had with the Lord. On May 8, 2005, I was encountered by an Angel. My spirit-man came out of my body and I could feel someone cradling me. As I was taken to Heaven, I was allowed to hear a conversation that Jesus and the Father were having; it was a conversation that shook me and has brought about the birthing of OHOP and what it is today. The conversation with the Godhead dealt with the following key values:

1. Intimacy – “It’s time to get your Bride”
2. Character – “The condition of your heart is now”
3. Urgency – “Son, you are not ready”
4. Holy Spirit Power – “For the next great move of My Spirit”
5. Intercession – “Lord show me how to get ready”

It is therefore important that we, as a spiritual community, understand fully who we are and what God has called OHOP to do. We must always be mindful of the will of God for this body...in this city...for this hour.

1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

2 Peter 1:12-13 “For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. ¹³ Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you”

2 Peter 3:1-2 “Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), ² that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior”

I. CORE VALUE #1: INTIMACY WITH THE ETERNAL GODHEAD

Mark 12:30 “And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.”

- A. Throughout scripture, God reveals Himself as a God of love and a God who longs to be approached by His creation. The very purpose of Jesus was not to declare that God was too mysterious to be encountered. On the contrary, Jesus’ purpose was to declare God as a Heavenly Father and to reveal His glory to us.

John 17:6 “I have manifested your name to the people whom You gave Me out of this world...”

John 17:26 “And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

- B. Jesus' death and resurrection made it possible for those who would put their trust in Him to become one with God through Christ. It is a spiritual union much like that of a husband and a wife. The act of marriage takes two individuals and makes them one in spirit, soul, and body. God's eternal purpose and burning desire is to become one with His people.

John 17:21 "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."

Ephesians 5:30-32 "For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

- C. All of His–Story (history) is about an eternal union. From the opening of the biblical scripture, to the beginning of Jesus earthly ministry, to the beginning of the 1000 year reign of Christ, the bible clearly paints a picture of God preparing a wedding between Himself and redeemed humanity.

1. The first recorded wedding ♦Genesis 2-3
2. The first miracle of Jesus ♦John 2
3. The first eternal wedding ♦Revelation 19

Revelation 19:6-9 "And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! ' Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." ° And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ° Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

II. CORE VALUE #2: CONFORMITY TO THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST

So many in the Body of Christ develop a prayer life where they may cry out to God for the primary purpose of receiving more of God's power, asking God to use them, and seeking Him for blessings and success in life. The moment you and I gave our life to the Lord, a miracle took place! We became a child of God through the supernatural act and work of the Holy Spirit. And we are instantly forgiven and saved from our sins. (Jn 1:2, Gal 4:1-7, Eph 2:8-9, Titus 3:5)

- A. The primary role of the Holy Spirit is to make us more like Jesus.

Romans 8:29 "For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son..."

- B. The Holy Spirit yearns to reveal Jesus to us for the very purpose of causing each of us to become obedient children of God.

John 14:15-18 "If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

- C. While most in Pentecostal and Charismatic circles focus on getting more of God's power and more of His spiritual gifts, many do not realize that besides the nine manifestations of the Spirit's power are also the nine fruits of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

- D. The sum of God's Kingdom can be described by understanding and applying Matthew chapters 5-7. The Sermon on the Mount is the essence of what the kingdom looks like, what governs it, how one can benefit from it, and how one can encounter God intimately.

Matthew 5:19-20 "Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 7:18-20 "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Therefore by their fruits you will know them."

III. CORE VALUE #3: END-TIME URGENCY

The lack of having a strong foundation on the teaching of eschatology (End-Times) is a key reason why many in the Church have a complacent attitude regarding their faith. Over and over again we are exhorted by Jesus' words on the need to be watchful and alert concerning His return.

Matthew 24:42 "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."

Mark 13:35 "Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning"

Luke 21:31 "So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near."

- A. Jesus linked our spiritual readiness with ones' willingness to be spiritually alert for His return.

Luke 21:34-36 "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. ³⁵ For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

- B. The Apostle Paul warned the Church of the danger of being spiritually dull in order that the believer may be prepared for His coming

1 Thessalonians 5:1-4 "But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³ For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief."

- C. The Apostle John declared that God has special blessings upon those who are prepared at His coming.

Revelation 1:3 "Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near."