

# Break Through Prayer Sequence

## STAGE ONE: PRAISE

1. Select a specific theme for praise, such as God being Creator, King, Father, Shepherd, holy, etc.
2. Praise Him for His Son and Spirit, His Bible and Church.

## STAGE TWO: CONFESSION

1. Ask God to help you take an inventory of your last 24 hours.
2. Confess any specific sins you have committed against God or man.
3. Confess your need for divine guidance.

## STAGE THREE: INTERCESSION

1. Pray for the salvation of the lost and those who labor in the harvest.
2. Pray for new Christians to grow.
3. Wrestle for those enduring difficulties.
4. Be specific!

## STAGE FOUR: PETITION

1. Make a mental list of needs you have.
2. Be specific, complete, sincere and keep them simple.

## STAGE FIVE: THANKSGIVING

1. Think about how God has blessed you spiritually, relationally, physically, materially.
2. Avoid generalizing.

## STAGE SIX: MEDITATION

1. Focus on God, himself; dwell on promises or principles in His Word.
2. Dwell on current situations in your life. Ask "How can I be like Jesus in this?"
3. Be watchful for the devil's schemes or watch for divine opportunities.

## STAGE SEVEN: PRAISE

1. Praise God for being there to pray to and for listening.
2. Let your soul rejoice in who He is.
3. Finish your prayer with a strong "AMEN!"

Next Week:  
**SINGING WITH THE SPIRIT**  
**WORSHIP SERVICE LED BY**  
**MYRON BRUCE**

## March 11 UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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**Deacons' Meeting**  
12:15pm, today

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**Monday, March 12**  
Ladies Sewing Class, 7:00pm

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**Sunday, March 18**  
Our monthly potluck will be after morning worship.  
L.I.F.E. groups will all meet at the building.

**"Singing with the Spirit"**  
**Acapella Workshop**  
**March 18-21**



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**Sunday, March 25**  
Elder Time, 12:15pm

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## **THIS WEEK'S PRAYER REQUESTS AND UPDATES**

**Maudine Dick** has terminal cancer and is on hospice care. She is a former member who has been attending church in Sonora. **Orval Welch** has been diagnosed with AFib. His doctors are still working on getting his medications figured out. The Welches also requested prayers for their niece, **Tania Curulla**, who had been in remission from breast cancer for over five years, now has bone cancer. She still has young children at home. **Tammy Austin** is struggling with health and personal issues. Her mother, **Shelly Armstrong**, is in a lot of pain recovering from foot surgery. Melinda Mayfield's brother, **Tony Watts**, was in the hospital recently with breathing issues and internal bleeding. Brenda Armistead's Celebration of Life will be held here Saturday, March 17 at 3:00pm.

(For those on our long term prayer list,  
please see the monthly newsletter.)

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**HUGHSON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL NEWS AND NEEDS**  
Supplies Needed: Tissues, disinfectant wipes and white copy paper  
Save the Date for the 5th Annual Fun Run - May 18

More news is on a flyer in the foyer

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March Book Club selection: *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*  
by Gail Honeyman

# A Shepherd's Pen - Why Do We Sing?

Why do we sing praises to our Lord? The reasons for singing to our Lord are too numerous to cover in this short article, but I believe the most important reason is that God has a passion for singing and commanded us to have that same passion. Have you ever thought that maybe God just likes to sing and to hear his people sing? God's desire to be worshiped with songs and hymns is evident even in a casual reading of the Psalms.

*Psalm 96:1-2*

*Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.*

*Psalm 47:6*

*Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!*

In just four verses we're commanded to sing seven times. All told, the Bible contains over four hundred references to singing and fifty direct commands to sing. The longest book of the Bible, the Psalms, is a book of songs. And in the New Testament we're commanded not once, but twice, to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to one another when we meet.

*Ephesians 5:19*

*Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;*

*Colossians 3:16*

*Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.*

Why does God so often tell us not simply to praise him but to sing his praises when we meet? Why not just pray and preach? Why sing? Why are God's people throughout history always singing? Why words and music and not just words alone? Why does God want us to sing?

Probably the best answer is that God himself sang to his people.

*Zephaniah 3:17*

*The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."*

Another equally compelling reason is it that our savior sang, even in his most trying hour. On the eve of his crucifixion, Jesus sang hymns with his disciples.

*Matthew 26:30*

*When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

Hebrews 2:12 quotes Psalm 22:22 and is referring to Jesus when it says, "In the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise." Ephesians 5 tells us that one effect of being "filled with the Spirit" is "addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart" (verses 18-19).

We worship God, who sings, and he wants us to be like him. This should be enough for anyone to make singing songs and hymns to the Lord an important part of worshipping our God.

Come join us for the "Singing with the Spirit" seminar on March 18<sup>th</sup> through March 20<sup>th</sup> and learn about worshipping the Lord through songs and hymns.

~Daniel Borrás~