

# Three Characteristics of an Assembly That Will Last

## Introduction

1. Many assemblies come and go.
2. I really don't believe that we set out to start a new congregation with the goal of failing or ceasing to exist
3. What sets the successful congregations apart from those who fail
4. We realize this intellectually
  - a. Nine Marks of a Healthy Church — Mark Dever
  - b. Autopsy of a Deceased Church — Thom Rainer
  - c. The 5 Levels of Leadership — John C. Maxwell
  - d. Courageous Leadership — Bill Hybels
5. How about in practice

## Main Discussion

### I. They are a People Standing on the Truth of the Word (Torah)

*“Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your Torah is truth.”* (Psalm 119:142)

#### A. The Centrality of Truth

- 1) The Almighty’s Word is not one option among many—it is **the standard of truth**.
- 2) Truth is unchanging because The Almighty Himself is unchanging (Malachi 3:6).
- 3) Yeshua said, *“Sanctify them by the truth; Your Word is truth”* (John 17:17).
- 4) Do we measure our assembly’s practices and beliefs against the Word, or against traditions and comfort?

#### B. The Hunger of the Sincere Seeker

- 1) Sincere seekers do not chase after smooth words but desire what The Almighty has spoken.
- 2) *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled”* (Matthew 5:6).

- 3) Assemblies that water down the Word lose their prophetic voice.
- 4) A lighthouse must shine even in the storm. If it dims its light, it fails its purpose.

### **C. Yeshua's Example of Torah-Faithfulness**

- 1) He declared: *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Torah or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill"* (Matthew 5:17).
- 2) His teachings brought people back to the heart of Torah—justice, mercy, faithfulness (Matthew 23:23).
- 3) He exposed hypocrisy while pointing people toward obedience.

### **D. Guarding Against Deception**

- 1) False teachings often arise in assemblies that stop standing firmly on the Word.
- 2) *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine..."* (2 Timothy 4:3).
- 3) A true assembly tests every teaching by Torah and the testimony of Yeshua (Revelation 12:17).

## II. They Are a People Occupied with Prayer

*“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”* (Isaiah 56:7; quoted in Matthew 21:13)

### A. Why Prayer Defines an Assembly

- 1) Prayer is the lifeline between the people of The Almighty and their Creator.
- 2) Without prayer, assemblies rely on human wisdom, plans, and strength. With prayer, they are guided and empowered by Heaven.
- 3) Yeshua himself modeled a life filled with prayer—often withdrawing to pray in solitude (Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16).
- 4) What does our prayer life—both personal and corporate—say about our dependence on The Almighty?

### B. The Power of Prayer in Scripture

The Word gives countless testimonies of prayer’s effectiveness.

1) **Moses' Intercession** (*Exodus 32:9–14*)

a) After Israel sinned with the golden calf, The Almighty declared judgment. Moses pleaded for mercy, and the judgment was turned away.

b) Prayer can literally **reverse judgment**.

2) **Hannah's Prayer** (*1 Samuel 1:10–20*)

a) Hannah prayed in anguish for a son, and The Almighty gave her Samuel, who became a prophet that shaped the nation.

b) Prayer can **turn personal grief into generational blessing**.

3) **Hezekiah's Prayer** (*2 Kings 20:1–6*)

a) When told to set his house in order because he would die, Hezekiah turned to the wall and prayed. The Almighty added 15 years to his life.

b) Prayer can **extend life and change destiny**.

4) **Elijah's Prayer** (*1 Kings 18:41–45; James 5:17–18*)

a) Elijah prayed, and the drought ended after three and a half years.

b) Prayer can **alter the natural world**.

5) **The Assembly's Prayer for Peter** (*Acts 12:5–11*)

- a) When Peter was imprisoned, the believers prayed earnestly. An angel released him from his chains and led him out of prison.
- b) Corporate prayer can **open prison doors—literally and spiritually.**
- c) *There is no way of knowing how many diseases were cured, how many families were reunited, how many judgments were reversed, or how many dangers were avoided—simply because someone prayed.*

## C. The Nature of True Prayer

- 1) **Persistence** — Yeshua taught the parable of the persistent widow (Luke 18:1–8) to show we must not lose heart in prayer.
- 2) **Sincerity** — The Almighty does not honor empty words but heartfelt cries (Matthew 6:7–8; Psalm 51:17).
- 3) **Alignment** — True prayer seeks His will, not ours (1 John 5:14–15).

## D. The Power of Corporate Prayer

- 1) The early believers were “all with one accord in prayer” (Acts 1:14), waiting for the Spirit.
- 2) In Acts 4:31, after they prayed, the place was shaken, and they spoke the Word with boldness.
- 3) Prayer unites the community, strengthens faith, and brings divine direction.

## E. Practical Application

- 1) **Set a Foundation of Prayer:** Every assembly gathering should be soaked in prayer, not as a formality but as a priority.
- 2) **Teach Personal Prayer:** Encourage members to develop regular prayer lives rooted in Scripture.
- 3) **Practice Corporate Prayer:** Create times for the whole assembly to intercede for needs, the community, and the nations.

- 4) **Celebrate Answers:** Share testimonies of answered prayer to strengthen faith and remind everyone of The Almighty's faithfulness.

*"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."* (James 5:16)

### **III. The are a People Given to Serving Others Inside and Outside**

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."* (Matthew 5:16)

#### **A. Service as the Overflow of Truth and Prayer**

- 1) Teaching truth and praying are vital, but they must produce action.
- 2) *Faith without works is dead* (James 2:26).
- 3) Service proves love is genuine.

#### **B. Yeshua's Model of Service**

- 1) He touched lepers, healed the sick, ate with tax collectors, and spoke with outcasts.
- 2) He was not afraid to touch or be touched by the unclean.

- 3) His example shows that holiness is not withdrawal but engaging the broken with compassion.

### **C. Why Service Matters**

- 1) **People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.**
- 2) The Torah commands care for the stranger, widow, and orphan (Deuteronomy 10:18–19).
- 3) Service is not limited to insiders—it extends to all.

### **D. Service Brings Witness**

- 1) Acts 6: The early believers appointed deacons to care for widows.
- 2) Galatians 6:10: *“As we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”*
- 3) Service draws people to The Almighty through visible love.

### **E. Practical Application**

- 1) Identify needs within the congregation and meet them quietly, consistently.

2) Develop outreach efforts to help those outside the assembly (feeding, visiting, encouraging).

3) Train members to see everyday acts of kindness as holy service.

## Conclusion

1. An assembly that belongs to The Almighty will never compromise truth. It may be unpopular, but it will be pure, powerful, and holy.

2. An assembly that truly belongs to The Almighty will be known as a praying people.

Without prayer, there is no power. With prayer, there is no limit to what The Almighty may do.

3. An assembly that belongs to The Almighty reflects His compassion in tangible ways.

Service is not optional—it is the evidence of His love living in us.