

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

August 18, 2014

Private Prayer in a Public Place

1 KINGS 8:22-23 NKJV – (22) Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven; **(23)** and he said: "LORD God of Israel, *there is* no God in heaven above or on earth below like You, who keep *Your* covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts.

Public prayer is an issue that causes many Christians to struggle. Since many believers were known to pray publicly in the Bible, as did Jesus Himself, there is nothing to fear with public prayer. Many Old Testament leaders prayed publicly for the nation. Solomon prayed openly for an entire nation and for himself. There is no indication that this prayer was not acceptable to the Lord (**1 Kings 8:22-23**). After the return of the Israelites from Babylonian captivity, Ezra was so overwhelmed by the knowledge that the Israelites had left the worship of the true God that he prayed and wept bitterly before the house of the Lord. So fervent was his prayer that it prompted "a very large assembly of men, women, and children" to gather with him and weep bitterly (**Ezra 10:1**).

The house of God is a Holy place for united worship. A quiet room is for individual prayer. Yet, even in the house of God, there is the element of private worship. God's people are to worship Him and pray to Him personally, even in public worship. The church is for the united prayer of God's family, but also for individual believers. The life, power and glory of the church is prayer. The life of its members is dependent on prayer. The presence of God is secured and retained by prayer. The very place is made sacred by its ministry. Without it, the church is lifeless and powerless!

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 CHRONICLES 16:11

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "If the church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has."