



AWAKEN HOUSTON

FIRE IN THE CLOSET | WARMTH IN THE HOME | SHINE IN THE YARD

OVERVIEW

For the past few years we have coordinated a season of prayer through HCPN from Easter to Pentecost called 50 Days of Prayer. Traditionally, it has been a time to pray in unity for our mission as a Church, revival in our churches, and a spiritual awakening here in Houston. These have been impactful seasons as we've prayed together for God to move in our city. While we were preparing for the same rhythm for this year's 50 Days of Prayer, the Coronavirus began impacting millions of lives around the globe. As this disruption began, we decided not to wait until Easter to unite our voices to the Lord.

Pre-pandemic, our prayer theme was Awaken Houston. We will keep that theme as the last few weeks have given us all a rekindled sense of urgency to cry out to God for a spiritual awakening in our lives, our churches, our city, our nation, and our world.

We will be sending out a daily *video* devotional for encouragement and unified prayer. These will come from pastors, church planters, and leaders from throughout the city.

To help align our devotions and unite our voices in prayer we will have three points of focus during this season:

Fire in the Closet - Warmth in our Home - Shine in the Yard

Fire in the Closet

Jesus says in Matthew 6:6, "When you pray, go into your (*room/closet/secret place*) and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret." Many have a place they refer as their prayer closet. The closet isn't always literal, maybe it's a private time and place where they would get alone and meet with God.

Our hope and desire during this season is that each of us will press into our time with the Lord. We want to lean into intimacy with Him in ways we have not previously known. We seek to humble ourselves, confess sin, learn to linger with God, seek His face, and contend for our souls and the souls of others.

Warmth in Our Home

As we spend time with God, we hope that our growing intimacy is felt by those with whom we have the closest proximity. This season has forced us to be literally close to our families. However, you also might feel connection with community through the internet.

May those around us feel the warmth of God's love through us as we ourselves are pressing into God. Our prayer is that this season would be marked by a renewed commitment to both our families and to those relationships where we can experience true community. We hope that as we cultivate greater connection and community within our homes and through technology, these relationships would strengthen to a greater degree than they were even before the pandemic. May our homes be led and filled by people who are encouraging one another, serving one another, caring for each other, and loving one another.

Shine in the Yard

Let's pray that we as the Church will shine during this season. As Jesus says, "You are the light of the world...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

Now more than ever the church has an opportunity to shine. The pandemic has forced us to think creatively about how we accomplish our mission, but the mission in our neighborhoods still remains our responsibility. Let's continue to be a united Church in every area of our city, so that people will take notice of how we live and serve in the midst of adversity. May our love, unity, and good works all make an impact on the world around us, so that every man, woman and child in our city will have multiple opportunities to hear about the love that God has for them.

Will you join us?

Please consider joining us in PRAYER during this unique season our city is facing. Together we will unite our voices to the Lord for a spiritual awakening here in Houston.

We will be sending out a daily devotional given by pastors and leaders from across the city, followed by a prayer focus for each day.

To follow along and pray with us, please connect with HCPN online via our [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [website](#) for links to the daily devotional.

Feel free to use these in your devotional life, with your family, and with your church.

In addition, we are setting our alarms for **9:00pm** each night to stop and pray with those in your household. Please join us as prayers rise in unison from homes in the City like an incense pleasing to the Lord.

Pray specifically that God gives us Fire in the Closet in the days to come and uses this season to bring renewal to our hearts, revival in our churches, and an awakening in our city.

“This is not a praying age, it is an age of great activity, of great movements, but one in which the tendency is very strong to stress the seen and the material, and to neglect and discount the unseen and the spiritual. Prayer is the greatest of all forces because it honors God and brings Him into active aid. There can be no substitute, no rival for prayer; it stands alone as the great spiritual force, and this force must be imminent and acting.” - E.M. Bounds