

Why we do it the way we do at the New Forest House of Prayer

The promise of enjoyable prayer – Is. 56:7 – “Even those I will bring to My holy mountain and make them *joyful in My house of prayer*... For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.”

All prayer and all worship counts to God, but we want the promise of enjoyable prayer to be a reality, not only to our teams at the HOP but to everyone who comes to the prayer room to participate.

What makes prayer enjoyable?

- Intimacy
- Encountering God in His beauty
- Combining intercession and worship
- Prophetic music
- Antiphonal singing of Scripture
- Answered prayer
- Involvement in the Great Harvest
- Loving the church – positive prayers for the Bride

The Harp & Bowl Model

The “harp & bowl” model is seeking to establish a structure that is designed to launch the highest amount of spontaneity possible for a 24 hour a day schedule. We are seeking a worship model that combines both structure and spontaneity and reflects the worship around the Throne (Rev. 4-5).

- We have the conviction that we will experience more of the spontaneous flow of the Holy Spirit within the boundaries of a structured model.

A primary principle of the harp & bowl model is developing a theme or passage. The object is to go deep, not necessarily wide. *Developing a theme* expresses three values related to unity:

1. Team ministry flow – we go farther together
 - Fullness is only available in unity
2. Inclusiveness (of the whole team and the whole room)
 - Everyone can do the stuff
 - Undermines pride
3. Centrality of Scripture – God’s language unifies our hearts with His and with others

Why develop a passage or theme?

- It helps us “do” Colossians 3:16 – “Let the Word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”
- Allows for team flow in unity
- Gives opportunity for a “crescendo” in the Holy Spirit’s ministry to be released through worship
- A way to express diversity and creativity

The harp & bowl model must *de-mystify* the prayer and worship dynamics in order to be inclusive.

- An elitist paradigm must be replaced with a paradigm of the inclusiveness of the Holy Spirit.
 - He is the God of the big target – the weak and broken can hit it
 - A practical issue is that we do not need to wait for the anointing to be able to sing and pray from the Bible in order to be valued by God.
- We want a model that anyone can do even when they are in a bad mood or had a bad day, or when they are tired or spiritually dull. We can still connect with each other.
- The paradigm of the super-sensitive person shuts down most people because they then feel disqualified.
- The goal is not to be stunning.
- We need to demystify the prophetic flow so that all can “do the stuff.” Much more will happen when the *majority* “does the stuff.”
- A good meeting = a whole room of engaged worshipers in unity.

Dismantling fear

An important area to develop in order to equip us to flow in the anointing of the Holy Spirit is confidence, assurance or boldness in God. *Therefore, we must learn ways to empower the heart with confidence in God that overcomes fear.*

- Fear shuts down the hearts of God’s people.
- Fear hinders our ability to flow in the Spirit and to enjoy unity.

The harp & bowl model is based on values that continually assault the spirit of fear. A major concern of NFHOP is to dismantle the fears of our intercessors, singers and musicians. Only as our fears begin to be subdued can we soar together as a team with the Word of God.

The model gives permission. It empowers and gives boldness. When the responsibility of doing something wrong is placed on the model, it releases the fear and empowers people.

There are necessary, God-ordained human dynamics involved in operating in the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The human dynamics must be easy and predictable so we are not preoccupied with them. In this way, it becomes second nature to us so that in time we can become fully preoccupied with God Himself as we flow in the model.

- Learning to flow together in emotional and spiritual dynamics of prophetic worship is a struggle because it is not natural and feels awkward.
- This natural and inevitable struggle is sometimes wrongly misinterpreted as a spiritual hindrance. People think that the Spirit isn’t moving or that they can’t flow freely in the Spirit when in reality there are usually just awkward human dynamics.

Common fears:

- The fear of doing something dumb - resist stereotypes and be tenderized by grace for one another.
- The fear of the unfamiliar – the awkwardness of new dynamics
 - What is best is not always the most natural thing
 - An increased team anointing will come after pressing through the model until it is second nature to us.
- The fear of rejection – serving with people who are different from you
- The fear of not being wanted on the team
- The fear of being hurt, criticized, or judged
- The fear of inadequacy – not knowing the model or the Scripture
- The fear of failure – shame
 - The fear of failing in front of others is a major struggle
- The fear of performing poorly in our skills and abilities
- The fear of being replaced
- The fear of missing God
- The fear of not hearing God
- The fear of being weak before others instead of being unique and stunning
 - It is not about performance. Be comfortable with being average, then it is no longer about you.

The harp & bowl model is designed on the premise that a right structure enhances a creative expression of the Holy Spirit in the context of a corporate team even more than individualistic creative expression.

- Loyalty to a model without an understanding of the underlying heart values that shape it leads to a frustrating formalism. We must understand the values behind the principles.