

1. I have experienced the presence of God in a very real and personal way during my times of 24/7 prayer. It gave me a renewed sense of His holiness and His majesty. I felt overwhelmed with my sin and my need for forgiveness and how precious is the gift of His grace and the complete covering of all of my sin by His blood. Many times I did not want to leave.

2. Spending time in the prayer room during 24/7 is always such a blessing. It is a time of quiet and stillness before God. It is a time of reading God's Word and hearing from Him. As I look around the room, I see the prayers of many as reflections, prayers, and scriptures are written on the walls. I think it brings us together as one body, crying out to the Lord together, lifting up our praises, our thanksgivings, and calling on Him to move by His power. We pray for each other as we see the needs that are shared and we join together in coming to the Lord, humbling ourselves, and watching Him work. As I leave I feel filled and blessed by God's love and grace.

3. Probably the most impacting experience I have had with 24/7 prayer was when a cross was there to nail our sins to. As I pounded, I thought of the hands of Christ being nailed to the cross. As I left, my sins remained nailed to the cross- forgiven!

4. I have gone to the prayer room before during 24/7 prayer vigils, and participated again recently. I have always thought of that time as a special time with the Lord- especially when I would be there at night. It was so quiet-no interruptions-but just me and God. I would use the time to read scripture, pray and just be quiet before God. I always felt so blessed after that special time with the Lord. One thing I always noticed is that the hour went by way too fast. This time, I went a few hours after we had the Passover dinner and spent the time meditating on that final weekend for our Lord and Savior-how he suffered and died for me and on the 3rd day he rose again. Alleluia what a Savior!

5. My time in the prayer room during the 24 hour prayer vigil was such a beautiful and special experience. I treasured that time to stand in the gap for others, bringing them before the Lord. I appreciated the time to be still and listen for the Holy Spirit speaking to me. I was also blessed to pray together with those who were praying in the prayer room before me and with those who would pray after me. That corporate time of prayer was very powerful.

6. We are firm believers in the power of prayer, and we are delighted when this can happen as a church body through 24 hour prayer opportunities. Having this special time set aside is important, especially as this is the foundation of our ministry here at Oakdale. We found that prayer vigil experience special as a couple, taking the time to pray together. We value the time to share our needs together and bring them before the Lord. Praying together as a couple is essential to our marriage. We know that statistics show that couples who share spiritual intimacy through prayer and Scripture reading have only a 1 in 1,087-divorce rate. Time in prayer together during the 24 hour prayer vigil helped strengthen our marriage.

7. Spending time praying during the 24-hour prayer vigil was so valuable to me because it allowed me a place and time to be still for an hour and focus on God. I read Bible passages about Jesus' trial, crucifixion and resurrection. Taking communion was also an option in the prayer room, and for me that was a meaningful time of reflection on Christ's suffering and death for my sins. Often, it seems very difficult to find that quiet space and time to spend with God at home. I look forward to the times of 24-hour prayer here at Oakdale to be quiet, listen to God and talk to God.