

Together

Prayer 9/17/2023

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Icebreaker

What is the most dramatic answer to prayer you have ever heard of? —OR—

How do you define a prayer warrior? —OR—

For what do we pray mostly?

Step 1 - GET REAL

What are you thankful for from the past week?

What struggles did you face?

What can you share from your personal Bible reading?

Where did you see God in your daily life?

Step 2: GET FED

Scripture

Luke 19:46 (ESV) ⁴⁶ saying to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a den of robbers.”

Acts 1:14 (ESV) ¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Acts 1:24-25 (ESV) ²⁴ And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.”

Acts 2:42 (ESV) ⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 12:5 (ESV) ⁵ So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

Acts 16:13 (ESV) ¹³ And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.

Romans 15:30 (ESV) ³⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf,

Philippians 1:19 (ESV) ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance,

1 Timothy 2:1-2 (ESV) ¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

Ephesians 6:18-20 (ESV) ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of

the gospel,²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

James 5:13-16 (ESV) ¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Revelation 8:3-4 (ESV) ³ And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, ⁴ and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel.

Discussion Questions

What did Christ think the house of God should be? (Lk 19:46)

In Acts 1:14, what do we find the apostles and some other followers of Christ doing?

What was this group praying for specifically? (Acts 1:24-25)

In Acts 2:42, to what was the early church devoted?

In Acts 12:5 what was the early church doing? In what manner?

In Acts 16:13, where did Paul go? Does the church have a place like this today?

In Rom 15:30 and Phil 1:19, for what did Paul ask? Why would he specifically ask for this?

For whom did Paul tell Timothy to pray? (1 Tim 2:1-2)

When and how are we to pray according to Eph 6:18-20?

What three things does James tell us to pray for? (James 5:13-18)

What does James tell us about the prayer of righteous people? (James 5:16)

What type of prayer will save the sick? (James 5:15)

What does Revelation tell us was being offered before God? (Rev 8:3-4) What does this indicate about our prayers?

In all of these verses, who is praying? What does this indicate the early Christians thought about collective prayer?

These verses indicate the early church prayed often and long; they were devoted to prayer. Do you think we are as devoted to prayer as a church? Should we be as devoted? If yes, what can we do to increase our collective prayer as a church?

“Earnest prayer” (Acts 12:5) “Strive together with me” (Rom 15:30) “Praying at all times... With all perseverance” (Eph 6:18) “Prayer of faith” (James 5:15) How well do these phrases describe our church prayer today? What can we do today to pray in this manner?

Step 3: GET ACTIVE

Look through the verses above and try to pray in the manner described above for the elements outlined.

Give the elders ideas about how to improve the collective prayer life of the church.