

## **GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES** (October 16, 2022)

For Personal or Group Study

Believers should make time for corporate prayer especially when the church gathers. There is tremendous power in corporate prayer; God meets with us in a special way when we participate in it. Even the Lord's Prayer implies our need to pray corporately. It says, "Give 'us' our daily bread. Forgive 'us' our debts..."

We are in the fifth of our seven-week sermon series "Why Church?" taking seriously the question, why do I need to go to church to pray?

It is common to hear from someone that they can "pray better" when they are enjoying nature or from the comfort of their easy chair rather than in church.

This Sunday we will look at why Christians, from the early church to today, in every time and place, *pray together*? In part, because heartfelt prayer requires fresh glimpses of God, and we know how little we see by ourselves. We want to take in and experience more of Jesus than we would ever see on our own. We want to kindle our adoration before God through the eyes of others. And much more.

Church is the place where believers can love one another, encourage one another, "spur" one another to love and good works, serve one another, instruct one another, honor one another, to be kind and compassionate to one another, and pray for one another and others.

### **The Fellowship of the Believers**

SERMON PASSAGE: Acts 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup>Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

### **WHAT DOES IT SAY?**

1. Why do you think the people in this passage got together?  
 They loved to eat.  
 They had a lot of needs.  
 They were excited about their new life and wanted to talk about it with each other.
2. How would you describe the atmosphere in this passage?  
 Chaotic  
 Caring  
 Warm  
 Life-changing  
 Unpredictable

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

3. What made the early church so appealing to others?  
 Spiritual vitality.  
 Love for each other.  
 Openness to others.  
 Praying.
4. If you had been invited to be a part of this community, what would have been your reaction?  
 Too much like a cult.  
 I might give it a try.  
 Where do I sign up?

### **WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?**

5. What do you devote yourself too daily?
6. How did you feel about going to church as a kid? Or did you?
7. How is Grace of Christ fellowship like and unlike the fellowship in this passage?
8. How could this example affect how you get involved in church?
9. What needs do you have right now? How can the church and your group pray for you?

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Spend time in silence, praying (even if just for a moment or two). Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Be honest. If you don't know how or what to pray admit that and ask God to help you pray.