

Abundant Life: Eternal Purpose: Ministry Partners Pt. 4

Prayer and giving are two powerful purposes the church has that open Heaven for our sakes!

6. Prayer

The Lord encourages us to pray together with great faith and expectation. We're promised that if we ask in agreement, He'll do it, as well as be present in our gatherings. This is absolutely encouraging and shows that we can't afford to neglect partnering in prayer. Those things we've prayed about alone without success may be answered when we are obedient to partner in prayer. He named His house, "The House of Prayer."

Acts 2:42 New Living Translation

42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper[a]), and to prayer.

Matthew 18:15-20 New Living Translation

15 "If another believer[a] sins against you,[b] go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. 16 But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. 17 If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

18 "I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid[c] on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit[d] on earth will be permitted in heaven.

- We don't have to permit on earth, what forbidden in Heaven.
- What is permitted in Heaven, we must not allow to be forbidden on earth.
- We can loose/permit what Heaven has loosed/permitted.
- We can bind up/forbid what Heaven has binded up/forbidden.
- This is "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."
- Examples:

Marriage example:

Matthew 19:5-6 New Living Translation

5 And he said, “This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’[a] 6 Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.”

Father in the the name of Jesus I forbid/bind up the spirits and or people working to split apart my marriage because you have joined us together just as you have forbid it, and I permit/loose unity between the two of us becoming one, just as you have permitted it, so we loose ourselves from these attacks in Jesus name amen!

Psychic/ Tarot Card Reader example:

19 “I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. 20 For where two or three gather together as my followers,[e] I am there among them.”

James 5:13-16 New Living Translation

13 Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. 14 Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven. 16 Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

Acts 12:1-11 New Living Translation

James Is Killed and Peter Is Imprisoned

12 About that time King Herod Agrippa[a] began to persecute some believers in the church. 2 He had the apostle James (John’s brother) killed with a sword. 3 When Herod saw how much this pleased the Jewish people, he also arrested Peter. (This took place during the Passover celebration.[b]) 4 Then he imprisoned him, placing him under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring Peter out for public trial after the Passover. 5 But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him.

6 The night before Peter was to be placed on trial, he was asleep, fastened with two chains between two soldiers. Others stood guard at the prison gate. 7 Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel

struck him on the side to awaken him and said, "Quick! Get up!" And the chains fell off his wrists. 8 Then the angel told him, "Get dressed and put on your sandals." And he did. "Now put on your coat and follow me," the angel ordered.

9 So Peter left the cell, following the angel. But all the time he thought it was a vision. He didn't realize it was actually happening. 10 They passed the first and second guard posts and came to the iron gate leading to the city, and this opened for them all by itself. So they passed through and started walking down the street, and then the angel suddenly left him.

11 Peter finally came to his senses. "It's really true!" he said. "The Lord has sent his angel and saved me from Herod and from what the Jewish leaders[c] had planned to do to me!"

7. Giving

Without a doubt, it takes finances to operate anything, and that includes a ministry. Feeding and clothing the poor, and ministering to prisoners are a few of the things that come with a cost. There are also operating expenses associated with maintaining a building and staff. The wonderful thing about being partners in giving is that we're blessed to share the burden. God is faithful to bless us first and expects that we'll cheerfully give back to the work of ministry. There are blessings for obeying the principles of giving that will not fail. While finances are a critical need, they're not the only thing that can be given. The church needs the liberal giving of gifts, talents, compassion, and sacrifices of time as well.

Acts 2:44-45 New Living Translation

44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.

Luke 6:32-38 New Living Translation

32 "If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! 33 And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! 34 And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return. 35 "Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. 36 You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate. 37 "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. 38

Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.[a]”

Giving has been assigned the power to increase our abundance more than working! So while we do work for a living, it's our giving that God puts to work for us. We must never limit ourselves by eating all the seeds/finances He provides for us. If we fail to plant seeds by giving back to God, we're limited only to what that paycheck provides and not the blessings He desires to give us. So if we keep everything God gives us through working that's all we have to live from. But if we give back to God we have an expectation for supernatural increase in our lives. We must learn the godly principles and promises of giving. Then we will understand truly that we don't have to give, we get to give and partipate in receiving more than our wages could ever supply.

2 Corinthians 9:6-13 New Living Translation

6 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. 7 You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.”[a] 8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. 9 As the Scriptures say, “They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever.”[b] 10 For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity[c] in you. 11 Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. 12 So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem[d] will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. 13 As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ.

1 Timothy 5:17-18 New Living Translation

17 Elders who do their work well should be respected and paid well,[a] especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching. 18 For the Scripture says, “You must not muzzle an ox to keep it from eating as it treads out the grain.” And in another place, “Those who work deserve their pay!”[b]

Matthew 28:19-20 New Living Translation

19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,[a] baptizing them in

the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”