

MESSAGE NOTES: When The Church Prays

SCRIPTURE [Acts 12](#)

+ [Acts 1:13-14, 2:1-4, 2:42, 4:23-24, 4:31, 6:6-7, 13:1-3, 16:25-26](#)

WHEN THE CHURCH PRAYS

1. MIRACLES HAPPEN

2. GOD SURPRISES AND SURPASSES

3. GOD'S WORD SPREADS

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Message: PRAY FIRST – Part 3 – When The Church Prays

Speaker: Shawn Vandop

Date: January 21, 2024




Connect (30min)

*For *Connect* and *Prayer* -- break into two groups, or groups of 3-4 people to enhance participation.

1. BIOS, BLESSINGS & BATTLES

- a. Share 1 fact from your *Bio* (life story) that we don't know about you yet.
- b. Share a *Blessing* and a *Battle* from this past week in your life.

2. P.R.A.Y.

- a.  Read [Psalm 115](#).
- b. **Take 12:** Set a timer for 12min and cue the group through each step.
 - Pause: *Be still and quiet for 2min. Just breathe and focus on the psalm.*
 - Rejoice: *Share short prayers of praise to God for who He is and what's He's done – for 4min.*
 - Ask: *Share brief requests for blessings, for others and yourself – for 4min.*
 - Yield: *Share brief statements of personal surrender and trust to God – for 2min.*

Message Discussion (40min)

1. PRAY FIRST 2024 – 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting. January 8-28.

Modern civilization is so complex as to make the devotional life all but impossible.

The need for solitude and quietness was never greater than it is today. – [A.W. Tozer](#) (1897-1963)


- a. Visit www.mainstreetchurch.ca/prayfirst for our prayer & fasting resources.
- b. Would anyone like to share from their experience with God through *Pray First* this past week?
- c. How can we encourage one another through the remaining days of *Pray First*, and beyond?

2. CORPORATE PRAYER

- a. So far in our PRAY FIRST series, we have learned that when we pray, we are to go away by ourselves, shut the door, and pray to our heavenly Father. Jesus made time and location key to an effective prayer life ([Mt. 6:5-6](#)). This week, Shawn taught about the power of **corporate prayer** and described what happens when the church comes together to pray. Throughout history, God's people have gathered for corporate prayer. In fact, many of the greatest revivals started as believers joined together in community prayer meetings. In the early church, believers met often – sometimes daily – for prayer and worship. In our present culture of busyness, we have lost a bit of the urgency of corporate prayer meetings. We must remember that gathering for corporate worship and prayer is essential to our spiritual journey. What exactly is corporate prayer? Corporate prayer is simply praying as one. When we gather and combine our prayers as one body of Christ the results are powerful.
- b. What is more challenging for you: *private prayer* or *corporate prayer*? And why?

- c. Why do you think many people don't enjoy praying with others? *Share some common reasons.*
Have you ever had uncomfortable experiences praying with people? *Briefly share.*
- d. Flipping the script, how has corporate prayer encouraged, equipped, and empowered you in your journey?
Share your experience.

3. ACTS OF PRAYER

- a. Take a moment to read the story that Shawn walked us through in [Acts 12:1-25](#) 
- b. What initially jumps to you from this story?
What do you learn about God? What do you learn about the early church? What do you learn about prayer?
- c. Share the reading of these other verses in *Acts*, and highlight the benefit of corporate prayer in each:
[Acts 1:13-14, 2:1-4, 2:42, 4:23-24, 4:31, 6:6-7, 13:1-3, 16:25-26](#)
>> *Corporate prayer unites, encourages, equips, and empowers*

4. WHEN THE CHURCH PRAYS

- a. Shawn highlighted three things that happened in Acts 12 when the church prayed corporately:
 - i. *Miracles Happen*
 - ii. *God Surprises and Surpasses.* Doing more than we ask ([Ephesians 3:20](#)).
 - iii. *God's Word Spreads*
- b. If this is true about *corporate prayer* -- what would change in our churches, communities, and world if churches got serious about gathering to pray? Is it worth it? ([2 Chronicles 7:14](#))
- c. What could change in your life?

Prayer (20min)

***Break into groups of 3-4 people or men/women for sharing and prayer.**

1. What steps are you willing to take to grow in corporate prayer?
2. What fears does God want to set you free from so that you can experience His power and presence beyond your personal time with Jesus?
3. In response – *pray for one another*

***Commit as a Life Group to attend the upcoming *Prayer Summit* together, January 28th, from 6-7:30pm.**

It is a time of worship, corporate prayer, and communion. Sit with one another so that you can pray with one another.

***Check out the song [When We Pray](#) by [Tauren Wells](#) this week.**