

Energized for Mission - First Things First

Isaiah 40:28-31; Acts 1:6-14; Luke 6:12-16

Some things are so _____ they must precede everything else. Before a _____ can take off, there's the pre-flight checklist, fueling the tanks, clearing the runway, and permission from the tower. When you build a house, you need a _____ before you can put up walls, add a roof or paint.

Before they received the Holy Spirit and set out on mission, the disciples devoted themselves to _____. They laid a foundation. They prepared for take off. First things first. Then, the Christian Church _____ from 120 (Acts 1:15) to over 3,000 by the end of chapter 2, and about 2.5 _____ in the world today.

It sure looks like it was a _____ idea! If we want to see a movement of the Holy Spirit like this in our lives, church, and community, it's probably a pretty good idea to follow their _____.

When we prioritize prayer we are putting ourselves in the only position that ensures _____:

We are admitting that it's HIS _____ and not OURS.

We are admitting that what's before us is too _____ for us to handle.

We are admitting we are not in _____.

We are admitting we are _____ on God.

But it also builds our _____ in God and the success of the mission.

Because a person only prays if they believe God _____!

Prayer believes God _____ to help and _____ help when asked!

The first Christians believed this. So, "*All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer...*"

"*All these...*" means prayer is not just for _____, the spiritually gifted, or the brave. It's for ALL. That means we need YOU engaged in regular prayer.

"*...with one accord...*" Jesus prayed we would be _____. (John 17) It began here. The world is united, with Satan and his minions, around _____, outrage, _____, self-preservation, "my way" and more. But the Church of Christ is called to be of one accord around _____, his promise, his Spirit, and his mission.

"*...were devoting themselves...*" They _____ in prayer. They gave it constant attention. They weren't simply "fitting it in" when it was "convenient." Think of the Sentinels at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Prayer is not simply something we do occasionally when we are _____. It is a way of _____.

"*All we can do now is pray...*"? Or, "*All we ever really need to do at any time, anywhere, is pray...*"?

"*Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit...*" - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19

How is God calling you to be a person of prayer?

How is God inviting you to be “with one accord” with your brothers and sisters in Christ, through prayer?

How is God calling you to deeper devotion and commitment to prayer?

What are you going to DO about it?