



Message Series Guide

Without Ceasing

Part 9 – Praying Together

Acts 6:1-5

There is something powerful about a group of people coming together for a common cause. It's true for sports teams that win together, for military troops who fight together, and for the Body of Christ who prays together. There is both a strong biblical history and church history that establishes the priority of the Body of Christ coming together in unified prayer for the sole purpose of seeing God's glory and power go on display. Even a casual glance through the book of Acts reveals that the early church was serious about praying together. They prayed together in the temple and in their homes, when they were sick and when they were filled with the Spirit, at mealtimes and in times of persecution. Throughout modern history we can find numerous examples of Christians devoting themselves to praying together. And today as the Church shines the light of Christ in the places where it is planted, it must not neglect the most important work of corporate prayer.

READ:

Acts 6:1-5 • Matthew 18:19-20 • Acts 1:14, 1:23-24, 2:1, 2:42, 12:1-11, 13:23, 16:25-26

- What was the conflict that arose in the early church in Acts 6? How did the conflict affect the Apostles? What did the Apostles consider their highest priorities (Acts 6:4)? Why should corporate prayer be a priority in the Body of Christ today?
- Why was corporate prayer important for the early church? As a group, cite some biblical examples of when the early church prayed together. What are some examples of the modern church praying together?
- What is the value of individual prayer? What is the value of group prayer? Does God respond differently to individual prayers than He does to group prayers? Why or why not?
- According to Matthew 18:19, what is the result of unity and agreement in the Body of Christ in regard to prayer? How can unity in the Church help us pray according to the will of God? What does it mean that God's draws near when two or more are gathered in His name?
- In your opinion, is prayer more powerful when experienced in a private setting or a group setting?

DISCUSS:

- Do you believe it is easier to pray alone or pray with others? Why?
- Describe a time that you experienced powerful group prayer, either in with your family, friends, small group, or church setting. How did you see God respond to your corporate prayers?
- In a time when our nation and churches are highly divided, how can corporate bind us together in unity?
- What are some things we might lift up in corporate prayer that will help us experience greater unity in the Body of Christ?

PRAY:

Pray that our church would continue to grow in unity with Christ and with one another. Pray that our church would experience the power of corporate prayer as we gather together in His name.

RESPOND:

Take some time to pray together as a Journey Group. Experience the power of praying in one accord as the Body of Christ.