

## The Prayer Meeting

1 Timothy 2:1 – 15

### Dangers in Relation to the Prayer Meeting

1. Being bound by human tradition and historic precedent rather than by the word of God
2. Making attendance at the Prayer Meeting a standard for spirituality:
  - a. Thinking of yourself as more spiritual than others because you are present, and they are not
  - b. Asserting/Assuming someone doesn't value prayer because they don't attend the Prayer Meeting

### The Origins of the Modern-Era Mid-Week Prayer Service

Revivalism in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century: Charles Finney and D. L. Moody

Charles Spurgeon held Prayer Meetings on Monday nights

<https://ccel.org/ccel/spurgeon/sermons60/sermons60.xxxv.html>

### Prayer Meetings in the Book of Acts

The *routine* of the gathered church, not a stated meeting of the church. **Whenever** the church gathered, they prayed.

1. Acts 1:12 -14
2. Acts 2:42
3. Acts 16:13
4. Acts 20:36
5. Acts 21:4 – 5

Prayer is not *a meeting* of the church. Prayer is *the attitude* of the church. The attitude of an aircraft is its orientation in relationship to the horizon. Prayer is the orientation of the church's life to God. Not just during formal times of prayer, but always and without ceasing our concerns are oriented to God.

When there were serious decisions to be made, the church gathered for dedicated times of prayer.

1. The Choosing of an Apostle: Acts 1:23 – 24
2. The Persecution of the Apostles: Acts 4:23 – 31
3. The Choosing of Deacons: Acts 6:1 – 6
4. Peter Imprisoned: Acts 12:1 – 19 (v. 5, v. 12)
5. The Choosing of Missionaries: Acts 13:1 – 3
6. The Ordination of Elders: Acts 14:23

### Other Prayers in the Book of Acts

- The Apostles prayed: Acts 6:4; Acts 8:14 – 15; Acts 9:40; Acts 10:9; Acts 11:5; Acts 16:25; Acts 28:8
- Saul of Tarsus Prayed: Acts 9:11
- Cornelius prayed: Acts 10:1-4

## The Blessings of the Prayer Meeting

1. The encouragement we receive from hearing others pray
2. The assurance we receive from confidently making our requests known to God
3. The power we receive from the Holy Spirit through our prayers
4. The answers we receive when God is pleased to grant our petitions

## The Obstacles to the Prayer Meeting

1. The busyness of our lives
2. The hardness of our hearts
3. The hypocrisy of our prayers: we pray, but then we don't act on our prayers

## The Pitfalls of the Prayer Meeting

1. Emotionalism: seeking an experience or feeling
2. Long prayers
3. Not being direct/specific in your requests
4. Agenda-driven, advocacy prayers

Charles Spurgeon: *"Those who get up to pray do not pray, but **preach a little sermon**, and tell the Lord all about themselves, though He knows them better than they do, instead of asking at once for what they need."*

5. Wandering minds/inattention

## The Petitions in the Prayer Meeting

1. *God and His Glory*: for His rule and His reign to have dominion over all human rule and authority
2. *Giving of Thanks*
3. *Confession of Sin and Repentance*
4. *Intercessory Prayer for the Church*

### a. Its Members

Charles Spurgeon: *"Pray for a blessing on the Church. We ought to exercise a little of our love for one another in praying for our fellow members. Pray for the minister, for he needs it most. His necessities in that direction are the greatest and, therefore, let him always be remembered. Pray for the Church officers. Pray for the workers in all organizations. Pray for the sufferers. Pray for the strong, for the weak, for the rich, for the poor, for the trembling, for the sick, for the backsliding, for the sinful. Yes, for every part of the one great body of Jesus let our supplications perpetually ascend."*

### b. Its Mission

- Our Witness in the World [*"quiet, peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty"*]
- The Lost and the Unreached [*"Who will have all men to be saved"*]