

The Power of Prayer: A Praying Church

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

Day 3

Read Acts 4:42-47

Key Verse

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” Acts 2:42 (NKJV)

Key Reflection

Prayer was one of the most important practices of the early church. Along with teaching and celebration of the communion was prayer. In fact, prayer was the activity of the church when the Holy Spirit made its entrance into the lives of believers and began a new dispensation (Acts 2:1-4). The early church devoted themselves to prayer. The word devoted means to persist obstinately or persevere.⁴ It is to be committed to something as to give it priority. Prayer offered together in the community was the lifeblood of the early church and should continue to be the same for the present-day church. The church, the body of Christ, is called to pray together.

Thought

Prayer is essential to the vibrancy of the church. When the church gathers together to pray, things happen. We are most like the early church when we pray together as a community. The key is to persist and persevere in prayer. It is an important part of the worship service that we should not neglect. When we as the body of Christ join together in prayer, power is present, and so is our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 18:19-20). We gather today in the name of Jesus, who is with us as a committed people, devoted to calling on the name of the Lord.

Prayer

Lord, I commit myself to you today. As the early church devoted themselves to prayer, I devote myself to call upon your name as a part of the body of Christ. I stand with my brothers and sisters at Shiloh who love to be in your presence. I am committed to you. Thank you for sending your Spirit to lead me as I seek your face today. As a member of the body of Christ, I call on you and await your presence. You are my God, and I belong to you. Thank you, Lord! In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Questions

1. What do you feel when the church gathers together in prayer?
2. Does praying together with the church make a difference in your life?

⁴ Rick Brannan, ed., [Lexham Research Lexicon of the Septuagint](#), Lexham Research Lexicons (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2020).