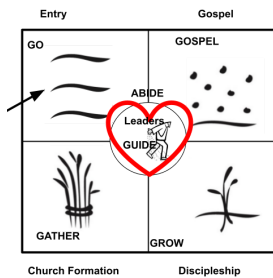


# Devoted to the Prayers

## Today we will look at Devotion to Prayer

- Act 2:42 ESV And they ***devoted themselves to*** the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and ***the prayers***. (Acts 3:1 - to the temple at the hour of prayer)



## Four Fields Strategy that we see deployed again and again in the book of Acts...

Mar 4:26-29 ESV And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should **scatter seed [field 2]** on the **ground [field 1]**. 27 He sleeps and rises night and day, and **the seed sprouts and grows [field 3]** ; he knows not how. 28 The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. 29 But when the grain is ripe, **at once he puts in the sickle [field 4]**, because the harvest has come."

As I looked in the book of Acts I noticed that nearly every prayer was focused around this work of the kingdom.

- Mat 6:9-13 ESV Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 ***Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*** 11 Give us this day our daily bread, 12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Scripture	Content of Prayer	Outcome of Prayer	Field
Act 1:14	Waiting for Holy Spirit (Lk 24:49, Acts 1:8)	Filled with Spirit - 3,000 saved (Acts 2:41)	2 Gospel
Acts 1:24	Prayed to replace Judas	Chosen to fulfill apostleship	Leaders Gospel
Acts 3:1	Peter & John the hour of prayer	Lame man healed, 5,000 men saved (Acts 4:4)	2 Gospel
Acts 4:29-31	Boldness to speak, God would work signs and wonders	Continued to speak the word with boldness	2 Gospel
Acts 6:4-6	We will devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laid hands on seven men to serve tables</li> <li>Word of God increased</li> <li>Disciples Multiplied</li> </ul>	Discipleship Gospel Leaders
Acts 8:15	Peter & John to Samaria	Prayed they would receive the Holy Spirit	Discipleship
Acts 9:10-15	Paul is praying	Ananias sent to heal him, and Paul is shown that he is to carry the gospel to the Gentiles	Discipleship Leader Entry Gospel
Acts 9:40	Peter came to Joppa prayed for Tabitha	Raised from the dead Story became widespread, many believed on the LORD	Entry Gospel
Acts 10:2-11:5	Prayer (6x) Peter, Cornelius	Holy Spirit led Peter - Cornelius and his household were saved	Entry Gospel

Acts 12:5-12	Prayer - Peter in prison	Peter miraculously set free	
Acts 13:3	Prayer in Antioch	Barnabas and Paul sent on missionary journey	Leader Entry Gospel Disciple Church
Acts 14:23	Appointed elders - prayed for them	Leaders established church strengthened	Leader Church
Acts 16:13	Lydia - place of prayer	The Lord opened her heart to believe	Entry Gospel Discipleship Church
Acts 16:16-25	On the way to prayer, demon possessed woman, thrown in prison, continued to pray	Earthquake, jailer and household is saved	Gospel Church
Acts 20:36	Met with Ephesian elders and prayed with them	Committed them to God, he would never see them again	Leaders Discipleship Church
Acts 21:5	Prayed with disciples at Tyre	Would not see them again	Discipleship Church
Acts 22:17-21	Paul praying in the temple (reviewing his testimony)	The LORD showed him that he would be called to preach to the Gentiles	Entry Leader Gospel Church
Acts 27:29	On a storm at sea -prayed for day to come	They lived to tell about it	
Acts 28:8	Prayed for Publius	All those on the island who were sick came to be healed	

**Act 1:14** ESV All these with one accord were **devoting themselves** to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

- Luk 24:49 ESV And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But **stay in the city until** you are clothed with power from on high."
- Act 1:8 ESV But **you will receive power when** the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
- Act 2:41 ESV So those who received his word were baptized, and **there were added that day about three thousand souls.**

**Act 1:24-25** ESV And **they prayed** and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen 25 **to take the place in this ministry and apostleship** from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."

**Act 3:1** ESV Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at **the hour of prayer**, the ninth hour.

- The lame man healed, the apostles were thrown into prison.....
- Act 4:4 ESV But many of those who had heard the word believed, and **the number of the men came to about five thousand.**

**Act 4:29-31** ESV And now, Lord, look upon their threats and **grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,** 30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 31 And **when they had prayed,** the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and **continued to speak the word of God with boldness.**

**Act 6:3-7** ESV Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4 But we will **devote ourselves to prayer** and to the ministry of the word." 5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6 These they set before the apostles, and **they prayed and laid their hands on them.** 7 And **the word of God continued to increase,** and the **number of the disciples multiplied** greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

**Act 8:14-16** ESV Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, 15 who came down and **prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit,** 16 for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

**Act 9:10-15** ESV Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." 11 And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, 12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." 13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. 14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." 15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for **he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.**

**Act 9:40-42** ESV But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. 41 And he gave her his hand

and raised her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. 42 And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

**Act 10:2** ESV a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and **prayed** continually to God...Act 10:4 ESV And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "**Your prayers** and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God.

- Act 10:9 ESV The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour **to pray**.
- Act 10:30 ESV And Cornelius said, "Four days ago, about this hour, **I was praying** in my house at the ninth hour, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing
- Act 10:31 ESV and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.
- Act 11:5 ESV "I was in the city of Joppa **praying**, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me.

**Act 12:5** ESV So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

- Act 12:12 ESV When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.
- Act 12:24 ESV But the word of God increased and multiplied.

**Act 13:2-4** ESV While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 Then after fasting and **praying they laid their hands on them** and sent them off. 4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

**Act 14:23** ESV And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

**Act 16:13** ESV And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.

**Act 16:16** ESV As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling.

- Act 16:25 ESV About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them,

**Act 20:36-38** ESV And when he had said these things, **he knelt down and prayed** with them all. 37 And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, 38 being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

**Act 21:5** ESV When our days there were ended, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, accompanied us until we were outside the city. And **kneeling down on the beach, we prayed**

**Act 22:17-21** ESV "When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance 18 and saw him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.' 19 And I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I

imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. 20 And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.' 21 And he said to me, '**Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.**'"

**Act 27:29** NIV Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight.

**Act 28:8-9** ESV It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. And Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him healed him. 9 And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured.

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SUMMARY - as we review the use of prayer in the book of Acts - we find

1. Prayer was a strategic part of their lives - was prayer an end in itself or a means to an end?
2. The church began in a prayer meeting 120 in the upper room, but the spirit came and they immediately moved to action.