

Corporate Prayer

(Theological Bible Training: Week 4, Session 9)



**A picture book of
the early church**

1. Beginnings

= The first Christians were devoted to prayer meetings

Acts 1v14: All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

“40 days after the resurrection”

Acts 2v42: And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

“a few weeks later”

2. Crises (times of intense difficulty)

= The early church responded to crises with prayer

Acts 4v24: And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them...”

“Peter and John, released...”

Acts 12v5: So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

“a darker picture”

3. Leaders

= Prayer characterised the leaders, and nothing was allowed to distract from that.

Acts 6v4: But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.

Be Practical!

“choosing the first deacons”

Acts 16v25: About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them...

“beaten, imprisoned...”

4. Progress

= Kingdom advance came in the context of fervent prayer

a) Decisions were made after prayer

Acts 1v24: And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen..."

b) Leaders were set aside with prayer

Acts 14v23: 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.

c) A key strategy move began amidst prayer

Acts 13v2-3: ...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.

5. Friends

= Prayer together was instinctive and natural

Acts 20v36: when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

“With the elders from Ephesus”

Acts 21v5: 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...

“On the beach outside Tyre”

A final picture...

= Power to witness was given at a prayer meeting

Acts 4v31: 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.

Imagine a picture book of your life...

