

The Book of Acts: 5 Practices of the Church: Prayer

Acts 2: 42-47 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Where was prayer first modeled to the apostles who then modeled prayer within the early church? Jesus.

Reasons many people don't pray:

- 1) We lack focus
- 2) We lack confidence
- 3) We lack faith
- 4) We fear Silence

Mark 1:35 Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.

Luke 6:12 One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Never stop praying.

There may be nothing more productive, than the time that you spend seeking the heart of God and inviting His power, His presence, and His strength to be with you.

John 17:15-16 I am not praying that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

Matthew 6:5-6 – When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

The first aspect of Jesus' life of prayer that we need to adopt is that we need to have private places of prayer.

Disconnect from the world so that you can connect with the Lord.

What do I pray about?

Philippians 4:6-7: Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

The second thing we can learn about prayer by looking at Jesus is that we need to recognize that we can turn to God in prayer all throughout the day.

The only way to get prayer wrong is by not praying.

We need set aside, private moments of prayer in our lives. But we also need to know that we can turn to him all throughout the day.

Matthew 7:7-8: Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Jesus hasn't revealed a God we can perfectly understand, but he has revealed a God we can perfectly trust.

John 6:67-69 – "Are you also going to leave?" Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God."