

# Four Pillars: Prayer 1 - Our Foundation

## *The 4 Pillars*

Acts 2:42 - They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to **prayer**.

## *Definition of Prayer*

The basic definition of prayer is simply "communication with God."

*What is communication? This comes from the Latin word "communicare," which means "to share." It means a sharing of information, ideas, feelings, and news. It is a two-way process.*

Exodus 33:11 - The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

*Prayer is an uncomplicated, conversation with God. No need for fancy words or phrases, just open, honest, two-way communion with God...*

## *Laying A Solid Foundation*

Matt 6:6 - But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Mark 6:46 - After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.

*Jesus taught and demonstrated the need of a rich and full "prayer life"*

Acts 1:14 - They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Acts 6:4 - and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.

*The apostles (and early church) devoted themselves to prayer; it was their very way of life...*

Rom 1:9 - God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you 10 in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.

Rom 12:12 - Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, **faithful in prayer**.

Eph 6:18-19 - And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. 19 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,

Col 4:2 - Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

1 Thess 5:17 - pray continually;

*Nearly every book in the NT gives examples and/or teaches on prayer; its significance can't be overstated. It is perhaps the single topic taught most in the epistles.*

## **Discussion:**

- 1) How would you rate prayer in your list of priorities for ministry? For life in general?
- 2) If Jesus and the apostles put such a focus and priority on prayer, should we do the same?

## *Scriptural Examples*

Acts 9:40 - Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up.

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

*Many of the miracles were directly preceded by prayer; all were done through a lifestyle of prayer...*

Acts 10:9 - About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray.

Acts 11:5 - "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was.

Acts 12:12 - When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying.

Acts 28:8 - His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him.

Matt 6:9-10 - "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

*Prayer is the impetus behind the things of God, it is the fuel on which the kingdom of God runs...*

## *Action Items*

### **Develop Personal Prayer:**

- 1) If you don't already have a personal prayer life, develop one now...Nothing significant for God has ever or will ever be accomplished without people who are prayerful
- 2) Start small, but consistent, then work your way up. Shoot for an hour of prayer daily (or more, if possible)
- 3) Don't worry about the mechanics; prayer is talking to God, so sometimes prayer time may be mostly you speaking, sometimes mostly listening/reading, sometimes praying in the Spirit, sometimes with your understanding.

### **Develop Group Prayer:**

- 1) Strong group prayer is essential to a healthy body of Christ
- 2) Set aside at least one meeting a week for the core group getting together with prayer as the primary focus
- 3) Shoot for a minimum of one hour of collective prayer each week. This should include both general prayer time when everyone is praying on their own at the meeting, and praying together for items or praying for one another.