

The Role of Corporate Prayer

Christ's instructions/ example applied to the church

On February 2, 2014, by Philip Pinto @ Village Bible Church

➤ **Jesus' instructions regarding prayer:**

1. The disciples ask Jesus to "teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1-5)
 - 1) reverence for God the Father,
 - 2) a desire for *His* will to be done,
 - 3) acknowledging dependence on Him for daily physical needs,
 - 4) seeking forgiveness from Him,
 - 5) importance of right relationships to people in relating to God,
 - 6) a request for deliverance from temptation.
2. Prayer is key to enduring persecution, do it always (Lk. 21:34-36)

3. Praying together (Mat. 18:19-20)

➤ **How disciples applied Jesus' model / teaching to the church**

1. Parallel of Jesus' ministry start (Lk. 4) to disciples (Acts 1:8-14)
 - 1) Jesus "began His ministry" (Lk. 3:23),
 - "You will be my witnesses" (Ac. 1:8b)

 - 2) "He was led of the Spirit into the wilderness" (Lk. 4:1) where He fasted 40 days and overcame Satan's temptations with the Word of God (Lk. 4:2-12)
 - "Why are you guys standing here?" (Ac. 1:11 – paraphrased)

- “They returned,” “went to an upper room in which they were staying,” and “with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer” (Ac. 1:12-14)

- They (120 of them) sought the Lord in response to a Scriptural directive/ prophecy (Ac. 1:24-25)

3) “He returned in the power of the Spirit,” (4:14)

- The Holy Spirit came upon the believers (Ac. 2)

4) *then* He went into Galilee and taught in synagogues (4:14-15)

- Peter preached and 3,000 “gladly received” and were baptized (Ac. 3)

2. The church continues to rely on prayer (in the midst of persecution as admonished by Jesus in Lk. 21) (Ac. 12:1-5)

a. “Without ceasing” (as seen from vs. 12 – church praying together in the middle of the night)

b. With great intensity (as seen from Greek word used in vs. 5)

c. The *whole* church was involved. Note the prominence of women here and in Acts 1. Women are vital too!