



How the Early Church Prayed

Selected Acts Passages

Sunday, January 1, 2017

1. **The Early Church prayed TOGETHER.**

2. **The Early Church prayed DEVOTEDLY.**

3. **The Early Church prayed INTENSELY.**

4. **The Early Church prayed BODILY.**
 - **FASTING (13:2-3, 14:23)**

 - **KNEELING (9:40, 20:36, 21:5)**

5. **The Early Church prayed TRUSTING.**
 - **God's PERSON**

 - **God's PURPOSES**

 - **God's PROMISES**

The book of Acts contains 32 references to prayer! The Early Church prayed! As we cross the threshold of a new year, we are taking a few Sundays to explore the practice and pattern of prayer in the Early Church. Here's just a few of those references to prayer . . .

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

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:42)

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. (Acts 4:31)

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. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. 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. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. (Acts 6:3-4)

So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church. (Acts 12:5)

Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 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." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. (Acts 13:1-3)