

Study 4

PRAYING TOGETHER

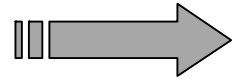
All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Acts 1:14

For Christians, *praying together* is not only the core activity of worship, but it seems from the New Testament record that was *the* core activity for building their spiritual community. It was the one activity that the early Church did the most!

1. What was the result of the early Church praying together in Acts 4:31?

I wonder what would happen if we as a church prayed more together? The fact that the early church prayed together so often, and that the Bible records God answering their prayers, tells us that our praying can really change things. I wonder what God wants us to pray more for?



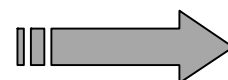
2. What appears to have been the result of the church praying in Acts 12:12 but actually not initially believed to be an answer to their praying together?

“Fatalism” is the belief that God has determined exactly what will happen. Those who believe in this unchanging fatalism are rarely motivated to pray. “What’s the point?” they ask. But for New Testament Christians, while we believe in the “sovereignty” of God (which means that God is ultimately in control of all things) we also believe that God has given us the privilege of praying *in order to change circumstances*. But it’s not only circumstances that our prayers can change. Perhaps you are battling with some untold issue? Perhaps there is some nagging question that dogs your mind? The answer is: *pray*. This is especially true when you share your burden with some other believers who pray together with you (note Matthew 18:20).

3. What did Paul particularly request that the church in Rome do according to Romans 15:30-32?

Paul, the great Preacher, regarded his ministry as a partnership between himself and those who could pray for his ministry. There is a little known saying that says- *If you want a better preacher pray for the one you’ve got!* As a preacher I can often tell when I have been prayed for. This is most notable when I travel away from my own church to minister somewhere else and the congregation is particularly mindful to pray for me.

4. If someone asked you what you would like prayer for, what would you say?



5. How did Paul want the Corinthians to “partner” with him and why did he want it? (2Cor. 1:11)

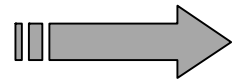
Do you pray for your church family? How often do you pray for your pastor? He needs it! Do you have a prayer-partner? Have you ever been a member of a prayer-triplet?

6. What did Paul tell the Philippians was the reason for his confidence that he would be released from prison? (Phil. 1:19)

Learning to pray, and to especially pray together, is a vital part of the believer’s discipleship. Your discipleship is what determines your spiritual depth, your love for God, and your fruitfulness for Christ.

7. How did Paul and ministry team pray for the Thessalonians according to 2 Thessalonians 1:11?

There are several ways to pray together. It can be structured (with such things as prearranged prayer requests known to the prayer partners), spontaneous (prayer partners gather to pray around a general theme but are free to pray however they want), or even simply by praying for each of those in the prayer meeting.



8. According to 2Thessalonians 3:1, in what way did Paul also want the Thessalonians to pray for his preaching team?

9. Based on some of the Scriptures that we have looked at, and what you know, how could you pray for the following-

(i) The other members of this Bible Study Group-

(ii) Your local church-

(iii) Your workplace or school-

(iv) Your neighbourhood-

May God help us as a local church family to pray together more. May we be united in our prayers to see everyone in our community turn to Christ and become a part of the Church that He is building.

Amen.