

LIVING A LIFE OF PRAYER

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FOCUS TEXT:

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

47 Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

3:1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

TRUTH: A life of disciplined prayer leads to a life of miraculous power. The Holy Scriptures demonstrate that God is pleased to fill the lives of praying people with His power.

How does God intend for us to live our lives?

God's intention is for us to be filled with His power for life and ministry.

In Luke 9:1-6, Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and He sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal. And they went through the villages, preaching the good news and curing diseases everywhere they went.

In Luke 10:1-24, Jesus appointed 70 others and sent them out in pairs of two. These teams of two went to the places Jesus intended to go. And when they returned, they returned with joy! They had joy because they went out in faith with the power of God in them to do the work of ministry.

In Acts 2, we see the fulfillment of the promise of Acts 1:8: *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.* It must be well noted that this promise was not given to a certain number or to a people who lived in a certain period in history. This promise of the Holy Spirit is given to the Body of Christ for all time.

What are we to do with God's great power?

Those who respond to the call of God and receive the power of the Holy Spirit are expected to go into the places that Jesus intended to go. The Isaiah text Jesus used in his first sermon preached in Luke 4:18-19 tells us what we are expected to do when we arrive in those places:

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD

While this tells us what to do with the Power of God in us. Verse 21 tells us when: And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

What and where are the remote places you hear God calling you to go?

How do we access the power of God?

We access the power of God through passionate, consistent prayer.

Acts teaches us that the community of believers who received the Holy Spirit lived in such a way that honored the Holy Spirit in them. They cultivated a life that encouraged the move of the Spirit and fostered an atmosphere for miracles. In short, they were praying people.

What is prayer?

Prayer is humbling yourself before God.

Prayer is admitting you cannot handle life by yourself.

Prayer is opening your heart to God.

Prayer is talking to God.

Prayer is listening to God.

Prayer is the key to the Kingdom.

Prayer is saying "yes" to God.

What happens when we pray?

Prayer ignites passion in your life.

Prayer makes us desire something better.

Prayer unlocks the resources of heaven.

Prayer creates the atmosphere for miracles.

In prayer we move from fear to faith, from worry to worship and change our focus from problems to God's promises.

In prayer we learn how to surrender what we want for what God wants.

Hannah prayed and God opened her womb (1 Samuel 1).

Jacob wrestled in prayer and God changed his name (Genesis 32:22-32).

Elijah prayed and God sent fire to let it be known that He was God and Elijah was His prophet (1 Kings 18).

Jehoshaphat prayed and God delivered Judah from their enemies (2 Chronicles 20).

Paul and Silas prayed and they were released from bondage (Acts 16:25-34).

I am living a life of prayer. So, now what?

I declare...

I will...

I commit to...

I will share this message with...