

APOSTOLIC STUDIES SERIES

APOSTOLIC PRAYER



Christ Foundation

Ministries, Inc.

"Building God's People on a Firm Foundation"

PREMISE FOR THIS LESSON:

One of the primary reasons that the church was most effective in its earliest stages was that there was a strong emphasis on congregational (corporate) prayer.

In this lesson, we will examine various examples from the book of Acts in order to understand the prayer life of the early New Testament church congregation.

PREMISE OF THIS LESSON:

The unmistakable conclusion from reading the book of Acts is that prayer was a vital exercise, and an integral part of early church life, and not just a worn out ritual. We see everyone from new converts to seasoned Christians dependent on prayer.

What made prayer in the early church apostolic is that it was effective prayer- it produced results.

Let's look at some of the situations (in Acts) that brought brethren together to pray.



ACTS 1:13-14

The early church was birthed in prayer. This sets the pattern for all of our endeavors today. Every Christian work should be built on a foundation of prayer.

ACTS 2:42-

Prayer was one of the mainstays of the life of the church. It was one of the activities in which the church was said to be *steadfast*. Prayer continued in the face of resistance.

ACTS 4:23-31-

Corporate prayer and the power of agreement produced supernatural manifestations as well as empowerment for ministry.

ACTS 6:1-6/ ACTS 13:1-3/ ACTS 14:21-23

Prayer was essential to both selecting leaders and releasing them into service (see *1Tim. 5:22, Acts 13:1*).

ACTS 12:5,12

One of the duties of the local church is to intercede for those of its number who are engaged in ministry work in the field. In this case, intercession produced miraculous results.

ACTS 16:25

Paul and Silas' prayer not only freed them from prison, but brought salvation to an entire household. Ministry workers must be trained to pray in times of duress, opposition or persecution.

ACTS 21:3-5-

Acts 21:3-5- Early Christians prayed whenever they came together, so much so that prayer became *habitual*.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of the modern-day apostolic move of God is to return the church to the practices and lifestyle that made it the most powerful force on Earth at that time, and introduced the world to the reality of the Kingdom of God, which is far superior to and supercedes all political systems and religious movements. The work of God will be accomplished in the earth only when the church makes a commitment to return to corporate prayer as an essential part of church life.