

DEVOTED

ACTS 2:42-47



*“There is nothing that makes
us love a man so much as
prayer for him.”*

– William Law

*“I had rather stand against the
cannons of the wicked than against
the prayers of the righteous.”*

– Thomas Lye

*“Prayer will make a man cease
from sin, or sin will entice a man
to cease from prayer.”*

– John Bunyon

“You can do more than pray, after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.”

– John Bunyon

“When we rely upon organization, we get what organization can do; when we rely upon education, we get what education can do; when we rely upon eloquence, we get what eloquence can do, and so on. Nor am I disposed to undervalue any of these things in their proper place, but when we rely upon prayer, we get what God can do.”

– A.C. Dixon

**“THEY DEVOTED
THEMSELVES TO.”**

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

– Acts 2:42

*After Jesus' ascension the
Apostles were...*

*“with **one accord** [and] were
devoting themselves to prayer”*

– Acts 1:14

*The Apostles chose 7 men to
oversee the needs of the widows
so that they could...*

*“devote [themselves] to prayer
and to the **ministry of the word**”*

– Acts 6:4

**DEVOTION TO
PRAYER MEANS
THAT PRAYER IS
PRIORITIZED**

The church assembled to pray.

Acts 1:24 – about replacing Judas

Acts 4:29-30 – for courage

Acts 6:6; 13:3 – over ministries

Acts 12:5; 21:5-6 – about circumstances

Acts 14:23; 20:36 – about their leaders

*What we learn from the first century church regarding **prayer** is that it is **intended to be our first response not our last resort.***

*The first century church possessed a
“seek first” mentality.*

*“do not be anxious about anything, but **in everything by prayer** and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”*

– Philippians 4:6

**DEVOTION TO
PRAYER MEANS
THAT PRAYER IS A
DISCIPLINED
MINDSET.**

Prayer associated with time.

Acts 3:1 – Peter/John ninth hour prayer

Acts 10:30 – Cornelius ninth hour prayer

Acts 10:9 – Peter sixth hour prayer

Matthew 6:11 – This day our daily bread

Prayer is presented in Scripture as a habitual practice indicates that it should be viewed as a spiritual exercise that we intentionally integrate into our daily lives.

**PRAYER IS A
CONSTANT,
CONTINUAL,
OR TIMELESS
ACTIVITY.**

Cornelius is described as “a devout man who feared God” and one

Evidence for his faithfulness...

“prayed continually to God”

– Acts 10:1-2

“pray without ceasing” 1 Thess. 5:16

“be constant in prayer” Rom 12:12

“[pray] at all times” Eph 6:18

“continue earnestly in prayer” Col. 4:2

**DEVOTION TO
PRAYER MEANS
THAT PRAYER IS
NOT VIEWED AS A
TRIVIAL ENDEAVOR**

*About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church... when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also... when he had seized him, he put him in prison... Peter was kept in prison, but **earnest prayer** for him was **made to God by the church.***

– Acts 12:1-5

Prayer is a unique privilege.

“Ask, and it will be given to you...For everyone who asks receives”

– Matthew 7:7-8

Prayer is a unique privilege.

“if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him”

– 1 John 5:15-16

Prayer is a unique privilege.

“The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much”

– James 5:16

PRAYER IS POWERFUL...
NOT INCONSEQUENTIAL.