

# 10 Reasons for prayer meetings

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## 1. Christ calls His church to pray together.

Matthew 18:19-20: "If two of you shall agree (symphony) on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Hatfield: "Any number of praying souls, two or more, have much greater reason to expect success when they pray together than when they pray for the same things separately."

## 2. The church was born in prayer

Acts 1:14: "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication."

As a result of this extended prayer meeting, the Spirit was poured out and the church was born.

Notice their *unity* in prayer and their *continuity* in prayer

## 3. The health of the church is seen in its life of prayer

Acts 2:42: "They continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine, and in fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

## 4. The church continued as it began in prayer.

Acts 1:14, Acts 2:42, Acts 4:24, Acts 4:31; Acts 6:6, Acts 12:7; Acts 13:3; Acts 16:24; Acts 20:35; Acts 21:5; Acts 27:29

The inner life of the church after the ascension of the Lord Jesus went on in an atmosphere of prayer and praise. It was the unfailing resource in every difficulty and emergency.

Derek Thomas: "The lesson of the early church seems to be prayer, prayer, and more prayer."

## 5. Prayer is the way by which God's kingdom comes.

Matthew 9:36-38: "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, the harvest truly is plenteous, but he labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

Isaiah 66:8: As soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth.

## 6. Prayer increases unity in the church

Peter Masters: "In the prayer gathering, preoccupation with ourselves as individual believers slips away, and we become a group of people longing for the blessing of others, and for the prosperity of the cause. In the prayer gathering, we are refined and honed as a united body of

people. It cements unions, and promotes respect. We hear each other pray; we subordinate ourselves to each other; we appreciate each other. We feel, as the old saying goes, one another's spirits, and we are warmed and deepened in oneness and regard. To adopt a well-worn phrase, the church that prays together, stays together."

### **7. Through prayer, the Lord grants deliverances**

In the time of Jehoshaphat, Israel experienced a great deliverance. How? By the prayers and praises of the church (2 Chron. 20:3).

Peter was delivered through the prayers of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 12).

It is better to pray and for God to say "no," than for the Lord to say: "ye have not, because ye ask not" (Js. 4:1).

### **8. Through prayer, the Lord grants blessings**

Ezekiel 36:37: "I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them."

Zechariah 10:6: "And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them, and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I am the LORD their God, and will hear them."

Jonathan Edwards: "That which God abundantly makes the subject of His promises, God's people should abundantly make the subject of their prayers."

### **9. Prayer meetings are one of the best ways to encourage ministers of the gospel.**

Romans 15:30-32: "Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me; that I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem, may be accepted of the saints; that I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed."

Ephesians 6:18-20: "Praying with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; and for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

### **10. In united prayer we seek the glory of God.**

John 14:13: "...that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

Jn. 12:28: "Father, glorify thy name."

Psalms 115:1: "Not unto us, not unto us, but unto thy name be glory."