

Acts 1:12-14

Prayer and Pentecost

Sermon Notes for the Seventh Sunday in Easter: May 24, 2009
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Intro:

God's people are a praying people.

The first glimpse or snapshot of the church – the centrality of prayer

The importance of prayer in all the critical events of the book of Acts
Prayer, the Spirit and Jesus – Lk. 3:21, 22

Characteristics of the Praying Church

1. **Obedience** underlies effective prayer.
They went to Jerusalem and waited, as Jesus had commanded.
2. **Preparation** for effective prayer seeks to reduce interruptions to that prayer.
They arranged to pray in the upper room,
3. Effective prayer **perseveres**.
They “continued” in prayer.
4. Effective prayer results from **unity** of heart and mind.
They prayed with one accord.
Your prayer closet should be able to hold others, and usually include them.
Acts 1:14; 2:1; 2:46; 4:24; 5:12; 7:57; 8:6; 12:20; 15:25; 18:12; 19:29

Excursus:

Acts 2:41-47

⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were **added** to them.

[Note: Apostolic Evangelism]

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

[Note: Formal Apostle-Led Non-daily Worship]

⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many **wonders and signs** were done through the apostles.

[Note: Apostolic Sign Gifts]

⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

[Note: Emphasis on Unity of Apostles and Congregation]

⁴⁵ and **sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need**.

[Note: Congregational “miracles”]

⁴⁶ So **continuing** daily with one accord in the temple, and **breaking bread from house to house**, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

[Note: Daily Congregational-led Life]

⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord **added** to the church daily those who were being saved.

[Note: Congregational Evangelism]

The Lord's Prayer (**Our** Father, **our** daily bread, **our** debts, **our** debtors, lead **us**, deliver **us**)

Women are full fledged participants in the important mission of the church.

5. Effective prayer involves unity and diversity, and the individual remains an individual.
Named participants
6. Effective prayer prays the **promises**, particularly the promise of **vindication**.
Acts 1:6; 2:20-22; Ps. 43, 17, 35, 43; 1 Kings 8:31, 32
7. Effective prayer consists of, and develops, **devotion** and **asking** for needful things.
8. Effective prayer is mingled with effective **actions**.
Acts 2B, Take a notebook to a prayer meeting.

Conclusion: Effective prayer always comes from forgiven sinners.