



# When God's People Pray

Today, I want to focus on how the church provides us with encouragement and support - namely in the area of prayer. 1 Thessalonians 5:11-26. A healthy prayer life and an abundant faith go hand in hand. The Thessalonians church got to experience what Jesus meant when He mentioned about being blessed a hundredfold.

## I. THE ENORMOUS POWER OF PRAYER:

- A. James 5:16b - *The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*
  - 1. In 5:14-15 - the emphasis is on the **shepherds** who minister to the wounded believer.
  - 2. In 5:16a - the emphasis is on the **congregation** who stands with and encourages the person who is struggling. The focus is on *prayer and fellowship*.
  - 3. 5:16a - to *confess* means to honestly share your struggles and let people know the types of battles you are facing.
  - 4. 5:16a - *one another* refers to other believers in your circle. Why?
- B. James 5:16b - Notice how all of this is connected to prayer.
  - 1. *Power* - in this verse is defined as "energy."
  - 2. James 5:17-18 - he uses Elijah as an example. He prayed *ferently*.

## II. THE EARLY CHURCH MADE IT A POINT TO PRAY TOGETHER:

- A. Acts 2:42 - it became a part of their lifestyle.
  - 1. 3:1 - Why were Peter & John going to the temple?
  - 2. 4:24-31 - What happened when the early church prayed for boldness?
- B. Acts 6:4 - It was the priority of the church leadership.
- C. Acts 13:1-3 - It was behind all their evangelistic mission efforts.

## III. ACTS 12: THE WHOLE CHURCH PRAYING:

- A. 12:5 - *earnest prayer for Peter was made to God by the church.*
  - 1. Notice: *it seems the entire church is praying for Peter.*
  - 2. The prayer is fervent, continuous, and offered in unity.
- B. 12:6-11 - the amazing answer as Peter is saved from prison by an angel. *See ordinary Christians meeting together with expectancy and fervency in prayer.*

## IV. PRAYER AND THE KETTERING FAMILY:

- A. Isaiah 56:7 - *a house of prayer for all peoples.*
  - 1. Prayer needs to become part of our spiritual DNA here.
  - 2. We need to see it as a way to help us develop a deeper relationship with God and with each other.
- B. Take out your prayer list. Who can you pray for?? Have you let them know you are praying for them?
  - 1. What happens when we all bind together as one and engage God in prayer?
  - 2. Principle in Ecclesiastes 4:12. There is power in prayer!

## V. CONCLUSION

- A. Do we see the power when God's people pray?

B. What about you? Do you know God?