

Home Group Questions

the week of 6/7/2020

Acts 12 & various passages

POWER OF PRAYER

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series on the unstoppable church by teaching on the priority of prayer in the early church as they faced one challenge after another. Peter was in prison and many in the church had gathered to pray even though it's clear that they certainly weren't expecting an answer like the one God gave them in Acts chapter 12.

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. **Read Acts 12:1-19.** Pastor Mel spoke about the way in which prayer should be a priority in our lives just like it was here in the early church when Peter was in prison. Talk about what you think that early prayer meeting was like. What are some of the formats of prayer meetings you have been involved in? What are the pros and cons of various prayers meetings and what kind of prayer meeting do you connect with the best?

- Pastor Mel shared the need for the church to:
 - Prioritize prayer in our lives and our churches.
 - Pray with an expectant heart (expecting God to work in our lives).

How do you see these principles lived out (or not lived out in the account of Acts 12)? For example, look at the reaction by those at the prayer meeting to Rhoda's report that Peter is standing at the gate.

2. **Read Philippians 4:4-9.** What are some important attitudes in this passage that pertain to prayer and the way in which prayer impacts us and those around us? How can we pray with faith and apply what Pastor Mel share about praying knowing that God is able but not obligated to answer our prayers they way we want them answered? Share stories from your past of how God may have answered your prayers with a miraculous "yes" answer...and perhaps times in your life when God answered your prayers with a "no" that may have caused some difficulty in your

heart or mind in understanding why God allowed circumstances to move forward in a way that was contrary to what you were praying for.

3. **Pastor Mel shared the following chart in his sermon:**

Prayer can include....

Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supplication

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Are you familiar with this outline of how we can pray? If not, are there "helps" that you use to increase your faithfulness and effectiveness in prayer?

4. **Read the Lord's prayer in Matthew 5:6-13.** What are some principles of prayer that you can glean from this passage? Identify the components of prayer (from the chart above) in the Lord's prayer. Remember, Jesus said pray "like" this. Even though it can be a blessing to recite the Lord's prayer, it was primarily given as a model of how we should pray. Which facet of prayer (from the above chart) do you find easiest to pray about in your own prayer life? What aspects do you believe need to be improved? What are ways you can make prayer a higher priority in your daily schedule?

5. What are specific things that you can pray for? This week, make it your goal to write out a prayer list and pray for those things regularly.

MOVING FORWARD...

Pray for our country and for peace when there is so much racial unrest and violence. Take some time and pray for our president and leaders and all those seeking to bring healing to our land through the power of Christ.