

A Praying Church

Text: Daniel 6:10-11

Introduction:

1. Prayer will be a vital part of the life of an active, faithful, growing congregation.
2. The Bible clearly teaches both the purpose and power of prayer.
3. To be a church that is pleasing to God, we must be a praying church...

I. Why Should the Church Pray? (Isaiah 56:7; Matthew 21:13)

A. To be like Jesus.

1. Prayer is mentioned 545 times in the Bible (511 verses).
2. 62 times Jesus is mentioned in connection with prayer.
3. 22 times it is recorded that Jesus prayed.
4. If we desire to be like Jesus, we must be people of prayer.

B. To be like the early church.

1. From the beginning, the church continued steadfastly in prayer (Acts 2:42).
2. Praying is mentioned 34 times in the book of Acts.
3. It was at the top of the Apostles' "to do" list (Acts 6:4).
4. It was vital to elders and preachers (Acts 20:36).
5. No one can stop the church from praying (Daniel; 1 Pet. 5:8).

C. To obey the Bible.

1. There are 70 New Testament verses on baptism.
2. There are 163 on prayer!
3. We ought always to pray (Luke 5:33-35; 18:1).

II. What Happens When the Church Prays?

- A. God sends workers (Matthew 9:37-38).
- B. God opens doors (Colossians 4:2-3; Acts 14:27; Revelation 3:7-8).
- C. God gives boldness (Acts 4:23-31; Ephesians 6:18-20).
- D. God gives power (2 Thessalonians 1:11; Mark 14:38).
- E. God gives growth (Romans 15:30-32; Colossians 1:10).
- F. God increases contribution (2 Corinthians 9:6-14).
- G. God grants wisdom (Ephesians 1:16-17; Col. 1:9; James 1:1-6).

Conclusion: We must be people of prayer!