

Continuing Stedfastly in

Prayers

TEXT: Acts 2:36-42

INTRODUCTION:

- A. THOSE WHO RECEIVED THE TEACHING OF PETER WERE BAPTIZED.
- B. NOT AN EVENT, THE BEGINNING OF A NEW LIFE.
- C. THEY CONTINUED STEDFASTLY. IN WHAT?
 - 1. The apostles' doctrine.
 - 2. Fellowship.
 - 3. Breaking of bread.
 - 4. Prayers.
- D. LET'S LOOK AT THE SUBJECT OF BREAKING OF BREAD.

I. THE PLACE OF PRAYER.

- A. PRAYER IS BASED ON ONE'S RELATIONSHIP TO GOD THROUGH JESUS
 - 1. Addressed to God as Father (**Matt. 6:9; 7:7-11**).
 - 2. There is a desire to please God (**Acts 10:1-3, 31; John 9:31; Prov. 15:29**).
 - 3. It is because of Jesus we can pray (**John 14:6; Eph. 5:10; Heb. 10:19-20**).
- B. SO PRAYER IS THE PRIVILEGE OF CHRISTIANS.
 - 1. All spiritual blessings (**Eph. 1:3**).
 - 2. We have an understanding advocate (**Heb. 4:15-16**).
 - 3. There is great comfort in prayer (**Phil. 4:4-7**).
 - 4. What about Cornelius? (**Acts 10:2, 31, 34-35 – 33; John 17:7**).
- C. WE CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE BLESSING OF PRAYER
(**Matt. 7:7-11; 1 John 5:14-15**).

II. PRAYER IS POWERFUL WHEN –

- A. THERE IS FAITH (**Jas. 1:5-8**).
- B. A RIGHTEOUS PERSON IS PRAYING (**Jas. 5:16; 1 John 3:22**).
- C. IT COMFORMS TO GOD'S WILL (**1 John 5:14; Matt. 26:39**).
- D. IT IS FREE FROM SELFISHNESS (**Jas. 4:3**).

III. THE POSSIBILITIES OF PRAYER.

- A. WE DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT GOD ... INCLUDING HOW PRAYER IS ANSWERED (**Deut. 29:29; Eccl. 3:11**).
- B. WE CAN BE CERTAIN THAT GOD ANSWERS (**Matt. 7:7-10**).
 - 1. He answers what is best, not always what we want.
 - 2. He answers in love (**vs. 11**), according to our need (**Matt. 6:8**).

JP Miller's prayer: Give us what we need, we only know what we want.
- C. THE POSSIBILITY GOD ANSWERS "YES" (**Acts 4:29, 31, 33**).
- D. THE POSSIBILITY GOD ANSWERS "NO" (**2 Cor. 12:7-10**).
- E. WE MUST HAVE FAITH TO
 - 1. See that God knows best (**Rom. 8:28**).
 - 2. Be humble (**1 Pet. 5:5-7**).
 - 3. Rejoice and not be anxious (**Phil. 4:4-7**).
 - 4. And keep praying (**Acts 2:42; 1 Thess. 5:17**).
- F. POSSIBILITY GOD ANSWERS "WAIT" (**Eph. 6:18; Luke 18:1**).
- G. **Jas. 5:16-18; Matt. 6:11; 3 John 2; 2 Cor. 12:7-10**.
 - 1. It's okay to pray for physical things.
 - 2. Prayer effects outcome (**James 1:6-8**).

CONCLUSION:

- A. ARE YOU CONTINUING STEDFASTLY IN PRAYER?
- B. ARE YOU IN A POSITION TO PRAY?