

SRBA | The *Functional* Role Of Prayer In The Life Of The Church

SCRIPTURE |

- Luke 11:1, "It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples."
- Acts 1:14 (post ascension): "With one accord they all continued in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."
- Acts 2:42, "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer."
- Acts 4:31, "When they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness."
- Acts 12:5, "So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made to God intensely by the church."
- Acts 20:36, "When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all."
- James 5:16, "Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. A prayer of a righteous person, when it is brought about, can accomplish much."

PRINCIPLES |

- A) We must **EQUIP**. We don't know how to pray, individually and corporately, and need to follow the example of the disciple's request, "Lord Teach us to Pray."
 - a. As a leader, give preparation and planning to prayer (beyond a printed list).
 - i. Provide the training wheels and then people will fall in love with riding (praying)
 - ii. Highlight relational over transactional.
 - b. Brainstorm: Reading scripture (and meditating), pre-written prayers, ACTS, pray for an hour, Campus prayer maps, adopt a day/hour of prayer (OneCry), pray for your community (walking, driving, maps).
- B) We must **ELEVATE** prayer beyond informing God and each other (i.e., here's a list, any updates? One person prays. Dismiss.) [Illustrations: calling in football plays in helmet; waitress collecting orders]
- C) We must functionally **TRUST** the Holy Spirit more than the flesh.
 - a. While there is a *doing* component of being a disciple (following Jesus), the heaven and earth-shaking component is prayer.
 - b. Where can you demonstrate functional, praying trust in the next 60 days?
- D) We must **SERVE** and minister along a flow of prayer.
 - a. Milton: "where good times flow." Prayer – where the power of God flows.
 - b. When there is a flow of prayer, we bring prayer into every facet of the life of the church – business meetings, team meetings, deacon meetings. Being more than transitional or programmatic but spending time to approach the throne of God and seek His face and His wisdom.
 - c. Move forward at the speed of prayer
 - d. When beginning a revitalization process, we begin with prayer. If not, we become like Job and his friends who spoke inaccurately about God, misjudging their circumstances and living by pride.

CLOSING | Ephesians 3:14-21



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