

Theology of Prayer, Part 5

~ *Congregational Prayer* ~

1. Read Acts 1:12-14. This text describes the activity of Jesus' followers immediately after He ascended into heaven. What was their chief activity? Joining together in prayer didn't appear to be central to the lives of the disciples before the book of Acts. Why do you think it now became a constant focus for them?

2. Read Acts 2:42-43. What activities characterized the church after the believers received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost? Why is each of these activities essential to the life of a church today?

3. Read Acts 4:23-31. How did the Christians respond to threats and persecution? What, specifically did they prayer for? According to verse 31, what were the results of their prayers?

4. Read Acts 6:1-7. What did the Apostles' want to give their primary attention to (verse 4)? Would church leaders today see prayer as a greater priority than social action or useful acts of compassion? Would you? According to verse 7, what was the result of this sustained focus on prayer?

5. What have you learned from the Bible about the practice of congregational prayer (Christians praying together)? What have you learned from experience or observation about congregational prayer? How would you like to improve in your contribution to congregational prayer?

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