



To be the church in the world today, we desperately need the **Holy Spirit**.

..when the Holy Spirit controls our lives he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control Galatians 5:22-23 (TLB)

Being filled with the Holy Spirit doesn't make me better than **others**, it makes me better than **me**.

ACTS shows us:

- God has a **heart** for the world.

Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Mark 16:15 (ESV)

For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (TLB)

- God has a **plan** for His church.

...I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. Matthew 16:18

- God's plan to **reach** this world includes **us**.

As the believers met together that day, suddenly there was a sound like the roaring of a mighty windstorm in the skies above them and it filled the house where they were meeting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on their heads. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in languages they didn't know, for the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. Acts 2:1-4 (TLB)

- We can't have the **power** described in Acts without the **prayer** prescribed in Acts.

They gathered frequently to pray as a group, together with the women and with Mary the mother of Jesus and with his brothers. Acts 1:14 (GNT)

A caution:

- If you can follow Jesus without **prayer**, you're following the wrong Jesus.

Prayer can be difficult because:

The nature of prayer shouts that God is the **only source** that can make us what we ought to be.

Prayer forces us to admit our own **helplessness**.

Prayer communicates our **surrender** to God.

Why pray:

- Even when God reveals His plan to us, He expects us to **pray over that plan**.

If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him" 1 John 5:14-15

"There has never been a **spiritual awakening** in any country or locality that did not begin in **united prayer**." ~ A.T. Pierson

- Prayer is the action of **depending** on God.

How to experience the power of God in your life:

- Make prayer a **priority**.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2:42 (NIV)

- Remove the **barriers** that keep me from **all** God has for me.

Peter replied, "**Repent and be baptized**, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." Acts 2:38-39 (NIV)

- Ask God to give me **all that He has** for me.

Paul was visiting some places on the way to Ephesus. There he found some followers 2 and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They said, "We have never even heard of a Holy Spirit."

Acts 19:1-2 (NCV)

All that **you have** from God is not all **God has** for you.

- Ask God for the **miraculous**.

Stretch out your hand to heal and perform **miraculous signs and wonders** through the name of your holy servant **Jesus**." Acts 4:30

What you pray for reflects what you **believe** about God.

- Ask God for **boldness**.

Now, Lord, **consider their threats** and enable your servants **to speak your word with great boldness**.

Acts 4:29

Boldness always requires **faith**.

After they **prayed**, the place where they were meeting **was shaken**. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and **spoke the word of God boldly**. Acts 4:31 (NIV)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Do you think it would have been easier or harder to be part of the church in Acts? Explain.
- Why can't we have the power of God without prayer to God?
- Do you think you can follow Jesus without prayer in your life? Explain.
- What is most difficult for you when it comes prayer?
- How can we make prayer a priority?
- What are some barriers that need to be removed that prevent us from all God has for us?
- Have you asked God to give you all He has? Explain why or why not?
- Have you asked God for the miraculous?
- Have you asked God for boldness?
- Do you believe that you can fulfill God's purpose while continuing in your comfort zone?
- What do you think God wants to do through you that requires boldness in you?

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Times they prayed in Acts:

1. The believers prayed for guidance in making decisions (Acts 1:15–26)
2. For courage to witness for Christ (Acts 4:23–31)
3. Prayer was a normal part of their daily ministry (Acts 2:42–47; 3:1; 6:4)
4. Stephen prayed as he was being stoned (Acts 7:55–60)
5. Peter and John prayed for the Samaritans (Acts 8:14–17)
6. Saul of Tarsus prayed after his conversion (Acts 9:11)
7. Peter prayed before he raised Dorcas from the dead (Acts 9:36–43)
8. Cornelius prayed that God would show him how to be saved (Acts 10:1–4)
9. Peter was on the housetop praying when God told him how to be the answer to Cornelius' prayers (Acts 10:9)
10. The believers in John Mark's house prayed for Peter when he was in prison, and the Lord delivered him both from prison and from death (Acts 12:1–11)
11. The church at Antioch fasted and prayed before sending out Barnabas and Paul (Acts 13:1–3; and note 14:23)
12. It was at a prayer meeting in Philippi that God opened Lydia's heart (Acts 16:13), and another prayer meeting in Philippi that opened the prison doors (Acts 16:25ff)
13. Paul prayed for his friends before leaving them (Acts 20:36; 21:5)
14. In the midst of a storm, Paul prayed for God's blessing (Acts 27:35), and after a storm, he prayed that God would heal a sick man (Acts 28:8)

Today's Talk..



PRAYER