

we devoted ourselves to prayer?

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

Acts 2:42

In the busyness of life, finding time to pray can be challenging! But what if we made it a priority? What would change? What impact would it have on us and those around us?

What is Prayer?

Prayer is, simply, an ongoing conversation with God. He wants us to speak with Him in every situation (Phi 4:6-7, Eph 6:8).

The Lord’s Prayer (Matt 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4) describes some of the “topics” that may be included: praising God, seeking His will, desire to see His Kingdom advance, repentance and asking for His wisdom, help and guidance.

When we don’t know what to pray, Paul teaches us in 1 Cor 14:15, to pray with our spirits (lead by the Holy Spirit) as well as our minds.

When we pray, we should be ourselves. We don’t need to put on any pretences, God sees right through them! We don’t need to babble; God hears us even when our words are few (Matt 6:7)

Why Should We Pray?

God wants us to speak with Him, it pleases him (Prov 15:8). He also wants us to listen and to expect that He will answer (Ps 17:6).

Prayer is powerful and effective (James 5:16). When we pray in line with His will, we know that He hears us and we can be confident that He will answer (1 John 5:14-15).

The bible encourages us to be faithful in prayer (Rom 12:12), even when it’s hard (Matt 5:44 instructs us to pray for those who persecute us).

Jesus prayed!

When we consider the impact the early church had (signs and wonders, unity among believers, generous living that ensured none were in need, fellowship that produced glad and sincere hearts, favour among all the people, God adding to their numbers daily), do we need to spend more time speaking with God, presenting our requests to Him, seeking His will and, by faith, expecting that He will answer and we will see His Kingdom come?

This Month’s Challenge... Prioritise 30 minutes, each day, to spend in prayer (either on your own or with others). Make a record of the things you have prayed for, and the answers you have seen.

At the end of the month, don’t stop, try to make prayer a daily “habit” in your life.