

GOD'S POWER UNLEASHED!

A Study of United Prayer and Church Growth in Acts

1. Acts 1:14, 15 — The Upper Room — They continued in one accord in prayer — These days of repentance, confession and humility, as well as seeking the Lord's vision, power and the Holy Spirit are followed by Pentecost — one of the most powerful events of Scripture! — 120 believers add 3,000 in 1 day!
2. Acts 2:42-47 — Those baptized continued daily to study, fellowship, worship and pray together and “the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”
3. Acts 4:18-33 — Peter and John were threatened not to speak or teach about Jesus. The church cries out in one accord prayer to God for boldness and the place where they were was shaken, they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God boldly! They gave witness with great power and grace!
4. Acts 6:1-8 — The Early Church had practical problems — Apostles decide they must focus on the ministry of prayer and the word — 7 deacons chosen and prayed over—and the word of God spread, the number of disciples increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the Word!
5. Acts 8:15-25 — Peter and John interceded for those who had not yet received the Holy Spirit—and He came on them. After this praying — Peter and John preached the gospel in many Samaritan villages. Prayer—the Word of God goes forward!
6. Acts 10:9-48 — Peter and Cornelius — Prayers, fasting and a vision leads to the gospel being given to the Gentiles!
7. Acts 12:1-25 — Herod puts Peter in prison — But “constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.” — Angel sets him free and he goes to Mary's home “where many were gathered together praying” No small stir — Herod searches for him — But “the Word of God grew and multiplied!” (verse 24)
8. Acts 13:1-48 — As the prophets and teachers were fasting and praying, the Holy Spirit called Paul and Barnabas to go on their first missionary journey. The church prayed before sending them out —
 - They went to begin churches and proclaim the gospel in Cyprus.
 - Antioch in Pisidia where almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.
 - “When the Gentiles heard this . . . all who were appointed to eternal life believed.”
 - The Word of the Lord spread through the entire region.
 - And the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

9. Acts 14:23-28 — Paul and Barnabas appointed elders in every church and prayed with fasting commending them to the Lord –
 - They reported all that God had done through them, and that the Lord opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

10. Acts 16:13-34 — Paul looks for places where united prayer is happening and God works –
 - Paul on Sabbath looking for a place where united prayer is being offered – meets Lydia – God opened her heart and her whole household is baptized.
 - They are going to a place of prayer when Paul casts the demon out of a slave girl –
 - Paul in prison for casting the spirit out – he and Silas praying and singing about midnight –
 - ✓ Earthquake
 - ✓ Chains loosed
 - ✓ Jailer draws sword to kill himself if all had escaped
 - ✓ Jailer and his whole family all converted and baptized!!!

Constant process we see in Acts

- Situation/Problem
- Gather/Pray/Fast
- Holy Spirit's power is poured out
- Problem is overcome
- Leads to proclamation of God's Word
- People obey
- People criticize
- Word of God spreads more!

The united prayer of God's people leads to the growth and spread of God's church.