

Fountaingate Christian Foundation presents...

The King's Table

Series
God's Praying People



***Sending the Word of God
to the Ends of the Earth***

A Personal Letter to You

Dear Friend

What a privilege we have. God has given us the invitation to talk with Him about anything at anytime.

Also we are given the opportunity to be a part of miracle answers to prayer effecting individuals, families and nations.

We are told to "pray without ceasing". In other words, it is intended for us all to have a lifestyle of prayer. This involves praying, consulting and being directed by the Lord. What a life – living in the supernatural realm with God where "all things are possible".

Our prayer is that this series will so effect your life for good as it has for us in the preparing of it. How great is the Word of the Lord. Prayer is the launching pad for miracles.

Yours in prayer for the nations,

Kind regards,

Paul, Bunty and David

The Collins Ministry Team

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The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The Call to Prayer

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us... Ephesians 3:20

Why prayer?

The early Christians devoted themselves to prayer (Acts 2:42). Throughout the book of Acts prayer is emphasised again and again as being the key to the believer's personal life, as well as the ministry to others (Acts 10:9,30; 21:5; 22:17).

"They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly..." Acts 6:6-7.

Why is prayer so necessary?

If God is all-knowing and all-powerful surely He could answer our needs without us having to tell Him about them. However, prayer fulfils two vital functions in our relationship with God.

Communication

We cannot know God unless we share our heart with Him. How can we think like God unless we ask Him what He thinks about the situations we face day by day. Prayer is fellowship with a personal God - our Father (1 John 1:3; 5:14-15).

Being part of His purposes

We are living in the days when God is bringing to completion His plan which He purposed since time began. Although the world looks bleak, God is still in control. We have been born into the family of God as sons and heirs to play a part in His purposes.

"His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made

known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence...For this reason I kneel before the Father...I pray..." Ephesians 3:10-16.

True foundation of prayer

The true foundation of prayer is fellowship with God on a personal level and also a knowledge of who we are in Christ and the power and authority we have been given in His Name.

"...you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ..." Romans 8:15-17 (Galatians 4:4-7).

Facts you should know

God is ready to hear your prayer

"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know" Jeremiah 33:3.

You have instant access

"And so, dear brothers, now we may walk right into the very Holy of Holies where God is, because of the blood of Jesus. This is the fresh, new life-giving way which Christ has opened up for us..." Hebrews 10:19-20 (Living Bible).

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We Have an Open Heaven

‘ In Whom, because of our faith in Him, we dare to have the boldness (courage and confidence) of free access – an unreserved approach to God... Eph.3:12 (Amp). ’

The veil is torn!

The Scripture pictures humanity's fallen condition like a veil separating us from the presence of a glorious God.

- A flaming sword bars the way to the Tree of Life (Genesis 3:23-24).
- God's hand veils Moses from seeing His full glory (Exodus 33:20-23).
- Moses' face is veiled to hide the reflected glory of God he had seen (Ex.34:29-35; 2 Cor.3:13).
- A curtain in the Temple veils the people from the full glory of God (Exodus 26:31-33).

Jesus became the veil

"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body...let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith" Hebrews 10:19-22.

As Jesus hung on the Cross, between Heaven and earth, he took upon Himself everything that separated mankind from the God of all glory.

"And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom..." Matthew 27:50-51.

The veil – everything that separated us from a holy, righteous God – was gone! Through Christ the way is again open into the presence of God!

"But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away" 2 Cor.3:16 (read v.17-4:3-6).

The enemy's wiles

Satan attempts to thwart us in two areas of prayer:

Personal Prayer

• ***Condemnation***

Our awareness of our short-comings can be used by the enemy to bring condemnation upon us, leaving us with a sense of guilt, unworthiness and failure, and unable to pray in full commitment and faith. But we do not pray based on our own righteousness. We pray in the knowledge of His free gift of righteousness, which we have received by faith (Rom.1:17).

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus..." Rom. 8:1 (1 John 3:19-24).

• ***Weakness***

At times we may feel overwhelmed by opposing circumstances and people, but the Lord has a definite answer for this:

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" 2 Cor.12:9 (2 Cor.4:7-10; Rom.8:26).

Prayer for others

When praying for others we are very aware of the reality of the powers of darkness over our communities (Eph.6:12). But the last thing the enemy wants us to know is that *we are no longer under them!* We were in Christ when He was raised and seated at the right hand of the Father (Eph.1:17-23; 2:6). There is now no barrier between us and God. We have an open Heaven! From that position, we pray!

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Seeking the Lord in Prayer

☞ Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love...for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers righteousness on you. Hosea 10:12 ☹

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened" Matthew 7:7-8.

God invites us to seek Him. To seek means to "inquire, require, question, to seek early or earnestly seek out". To seek God, then, means to seek that dimension which we have not yet experienced. Waiting is passive but seeking is active. And the promised reward of seeking God is that He will come and "shower righteousness on you".

Motives in seeking God

There are two motives that can drive us to seek God:

In distress

"When I was in distress, I sought the Lord; at night I stretched out untiring hands and my soul refused to be comforted" Psalm 77:2 (see also Acts 4:24).

By desire

"One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple" Psalm 27:4.

How to seek God

The Bible provides suggestions on how to seek God:

Separate yourself

"But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed" Luke 5:16 (see Matt. 14:23; Ezra 6:21).

Set your heart fully

"I seek you with all my heart..." Psalm 119:10 (see also 1 Chronicles 28:9).

Results of seeking God

The Bible overflows with promises for those who diligently seek the face of the Lord:

Rejoicing and gladness

"But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation always say, 'Let God be exalted!'" Psalm 70:4.

Understanding

"...they that seek the Lord understand all things" Proverbs 28:5 (KJV).

No lack

"The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing" Psalm 34:10.

New dimensions of life

"The poor will see and be glad – you who seek God, may your hearts live!" Psalm 69:32.

Blessing

"Blessed are they who...seek him with all their heart" Psalm 119:2.

The Lord's goodness

"The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him" Lamentations 3:25.

The presence of the Lord

"Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you" Psalm 9:10.

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"Lord, Teach Us to Pray"

“ One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray...’ Luke 11:1 ”

The guideline for prayer

What is called “The Lord’s Prayer”, recorded in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:1-4, was not intended to be a memorised recitation before God. Rather, the Lord Jesus was teaching us *how* to pray.

Worshipping God

Our Father

This is our whole foundation for prayer – the knowledge of our relationship with God. It was for this that Jesus died on the Cross. The revelation of His love for us – that we are His child – affects our whole approach to God in prayer (Ephesians 3:12).

“...you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father’” Romans 8:15-16 (see Hebrews 2:9-12; Galatians 4:6).

In Heaven

This is the acknowledgement of God’s position. He is on the Throne of the universe! He has total power and authority! This affects our whole perspective of the situations for which we pray.

“...Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool...” Isaiah 66:1 (see also Eph.1:19-22).

Hallowed be Your Name

Here we acknowledge who God is, what He is like. Worship of God in all His holiness, righteousness and glory is a central part of prayer.

“Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness” Psalm 29:2 (see Isaiah 6:1-4).

Joining His purposes

Your Kingdom come

In prayer we join with God in His purpose on earth – to see multitudes brought into His Kingdom.

“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves...” Colossians 1:13.

Your will be done

God’s will is ultimately fulfilled on earth through the Church, the Body of Christ (read Heb.10:5-7; Eph.1:22-23; 3:10-11). We are to pray for one another and our total unity together (John 17).

Acknowledging His care

Give us today our daily bread

He will meet our every need (Matthew 6:25-34).

Forgive us our debts

He is faithful to forgive us (1 John 1:9) and we are keeping our hearts right with others before Him (Mark 11:25; Matt.18:21-35; Hebrews 12:14-15).

Lead us not into temptation

Temptation is Satan’s weapon but God provides the way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Proclaiming His glory

“For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen” Matthew 6:13 (Amp).

We end as we begin – in a crescendo of praise and worship to our Father God. He is ruling. He is in control. He has all power. And all glory is His!

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A Lifestyle of Prayer

‘ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Mark 1:35 ’

"After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, 'Why couldn't we drive it out?' He replied, 'This kind can come out only by prayer'" Mark 9:28-29.

The disciples had been trying for ages to cast out a demon, without any success. When Jesus came down from the mountain, He immediately dealt with the evil spirit and the disciples later asked Him, "Why couldn't we do it so easily?" Jesus' answer is very revealing: *"This kind comes out only by prayer!"*

Did Jesus mean that some demons are so difficult to deal with that we should spend days of prayer (or even "prayer and fasting", as some translations include)? No, Jesus was not talking about special prayer set aside for specific circumstances. He was talking about a daily lifestyle of prayer.

A daily lifestyle

Just before this incident with the demonized boy, Jesus had come down from the Mount of Transfiguration. The beginning of this account reveals the reason He went up onto the mountain in the first place.

"... [Jesus] took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed..." Luke 9:28-29.

The disciples were learning the most important lesson of ministry. They had noticed that Jesus spent many hours each day in prayer (Matt. 14:23; Luke 5:16; 6:12), but they had not yet made the connection between those personal times of intimacy with His Father and the power of His ministry.

The secret to ministry

"Jesus gave them this answer: 'I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does'" John 5:19.

This is the most important lesson in ministry: *We cannot do it by ourselves!* Even Jesus, the Son of God, limited all His ministry to that which flowed out of His intimate relationship with His Father. How much more should we do the same?

"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine...If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" John 15:4-5.

Entering the secret place

"The Sovereign Lord has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught" Isaiah 50:4-5.

This was a prophetic description of the Lord Jesus (see verses 6-9). The whole motivating force behind Jesus' ministry was one of intimate prayer. Now the Lord has called each one of us into the same kind of intimacy in prayer (Matthew 6:6) and the same kind of power in ministry (John 14:12).

"What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs" Matthew 10:27.

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Prayer in the Secret Place

“...When you pray, go into your most private room, and closing the door, pray to your Father Who is in secret; and your Father...will reward you in the open. Matt.6:6 (Amp)”

Attitudes in prayer

The time we spend with God in secret prayer can release the most dynamic history-changing power this world has ever known. We have been invited into intimate prayer by none other than the Lord Himself, and this kind of prayer presupposes:

The right motives

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full” Matthew 6:5.

Understanding God's intention

“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!” Matt.7:9-11.

A real trust in the Lord

“And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him” Matthew 6:7-8.

Integrity of heart

It is good for us to examine the integrity of our heart as we have our personal prayer times with the Lord for it is the sincerity of our heart that is all-important to the Lord, not just the words that we say. As Isaiah

prophesied concerning the Pharisees...

“These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me” Mark 7:6.

Expressions in prayer

As we communicate our feelings and burdens in conversations with God, they can be expressed in a number of different ways:

Adoration to the Lord

“I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears” Psalm 34:1-4 (see also Psalm 95:6-7).

Declaration of the Lord

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things and by your will they were created and have their being” Rev.4:11 (see also Rev.5:9,13).

God is ready to be involved

The Lord delights to answer prayer and having us involved in the answers that result. Remember, God has promised that when we pray in secret He will answer openly.

“I will answer them before they even call to me. While they are still talking to me about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers!” Isaiah 65:24 (Living Bible).

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Partners for Prayer

“...I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. Matthew 18:19”

This is a special promise for any two people who will agree to covenant to pray together. Notice Jesus says “If two of you...”. There are obvious key conditions that will release the power of God in this commitment:

There is unity

“If two of you...” Two joining together in prayer provides some very real advantages...

Firstly, togetherness generates faith and encouragement to get a good result.

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work” Ecclesiastes 4:9 (read through to verse 12).

Secondly, two help one another in discernment and guidance in relation to God’s will. One checking the other and bearing witness to what is being sensed from the Lord.

There is agreement

“If two of you...agree”. This means that the two must be in complete harmony. God always stresses the importance of people being in relationship.

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift” Matthew 5:23-24.

The Holy Spirit is also part of this agreement as we pray together for the Kingdom of God.

“...the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will” Romans 8:26-27.

There is scope

“If two of you on earth agree about anything...” There must be agreement about all that is brought to the Lord. Anything includes all the needs and aspirations of life. Nothing is too small and nothing is too great. Jesus said...

“...Everything is possible for him who believes” Mark 9:23.

There is asking

“...if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for...” James says in his letter...

“...You do not have, because you do not ask God...” James 4:2 (read also verse 3).

It would appear from this statement not enough people do enough asking from God. It would indicate that if two people with right motives begin to ask, something happens (John 14:13-14).

There is the answer

“...it will be done for you by my Father...” said Jesus. What a wonderful privilege to receive answers like this directly from Heaven.

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Important Points in Prayer

“ In the day when I cried out, You answered me, And made me bold with strength in my soul. Psalm 138:3 (NKJV) ”

We have instant access

The invitation is given by God for each of us to approach the Throne of God boldly, to receive help in time of need. We can do this without any feelings of guilt or shame because of Christ's work on the Cross and His resurrection on our behalf. He has invited us into the inner circle with Him.

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" Hebrews 4:16 (read from verse 14).

We must be persistent

"Keep on asking and it will be given you; keep on seeking and you will find; keep on knocking [reverently] and the door will be opened to you..." Matthew 7:6-7 (Amp).

Real prayer is involved when our whole heart is behind it and is expressing a faith that will not give up. The Scripture gives many examples of this:

The Canaanite woman

Here was a woman who would not be deterred by the disciples or even Jesus, Himself, when requesting prayer for her daughter who was suffering terribly from demon-possession. Her persistence caused Jesus to declare her faith was great and her daughter was healed (Matthew 15:22-28).

The persistent widow

"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up..." Luke 18:1-8.

The widow in this parable Jesus told was seeking justice from a worldly judge. She kept asking persistently until the judge, for his own peace, gave in to her plea. Jesus declares that God will far more answer the persistent cry of his people.

"...I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly..." v.8.

The bold man

One day when Jesus was teaching on prayer, He told the story of a man who banged on his friend's door at midnight to borrow some loaves of bread because he needed to feed an unexpected guest. Jesus said he got the bread, not because he was his friend, but because he was bold (Luke 11:5-13).

We must be committed

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful" Colossians 4:2.

Devoted

We must have a passion and be whole-hearted in what we are praying about, realising the importance of the expected outcome of our prayer.

Watchful

The Lord wants us to be alert and aware of what He is desiring as we wait upon Him in prayer.

Thankful

"We give thanks to you, O God, we give thanks, for your Name is near; men tell of your wonderful deeds" Psalm 75:1.

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Praying the Right Way

As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:9

Know God is in control

God's eternal purpose guides His hand in everything. It affects the way God answers prayer. Although we may not always see the Lord's hand at work, God has given us special promises which can help us to have confidence He has all things under control and His wisdom is prevailing.

He knows all things

"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account" Hebrews 4:13.

His justice will prevail

"God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels" 2 Thess. 1:6-7.

He works in all things

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" Romans 8:28.

Nothing can hinder His plan

"I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted" Job 42:2 (see also Philippians 1:6).

Our times are in His hand

"But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in your hands..." Psalm 31:14-15.

Christ-centred prayer

We should not pray as though we are the master and God is our servant to just do our bidding. Our prayers are to be Christ-centred.

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you" John 15:7.

Prayer's sure foundation

Our prayers will be greatly influenced by the knowledge of three great truths which are at the heart of God's design and plan for all things.

Christ has pre-eminence

"And he made known to us the mystery of his will...which he purposed in Christ...to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ" Ephesians 1:9-10 (see also Colossians 1:15-20).

God's Kingdom is unshakeable

"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful..." Hebrews 12:28 (see also Philippians 3:20-21).

God's Word is totally reliable

"For, 'All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever.' And this is the word that was preached to you" 1 Peter 1:24-25 (2 Peter 1:4; John 8:32).

The world must relate to these truths ultimately. This is the focus of our prayers.

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Instructions for Prayer

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

When to pray

Many of the heroes of faith in the Scripture can be observed to have had regular times of the day set aside specifically for prayer; often three set times of the day – morning, noon and evening.

"As for me, I will call upon God, And the Lord shall save me. Evening and morning and at noon. I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice" Psalm 55:16-17 (KJV) (read also Daniel 6:10; Psalm 88:1).

The best example of a daily pattern of regular, wholehearted prayer was the Lord Jesus Himself.

Early morning is an ideal time

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed" Mark 1:35.

All night on occasion

"One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God" Luke 6:12.

What to pray for

Pray lest you fall into temptation

The Lord knows well, as does the Enemy, that if we are in prayer regularly it won't be easy for us to succumb to temptation, for the Lord will reveal it for what it is.

"... Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation..." Matthew 26:40-41 (see also James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:6-11; 1 Corinthians 10:13).

Pray for harvesters

God's desire is for us to be one with Him in His burden for the souls of people around us.

"He told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field'" Luke 10:2 (read John 4:1-42).

Pray for those in authority

Those in authority over us, whether right or wrong, have a God-given responsibility and accountability before Him. We are urged to pray for them and commit the rest to God.

"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority..." 1 Timothy 2:1-2 (read verse 3-4 also).

Pray for your enemies

How can the Lord answer our prayers if we harbour resentment against others? Our attitudes both in prayer and daily living must always be free from bitterness and unforgiveness.

"...Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you" Luke 6:27-28.

Watch and pray always

"Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man" Luke 21:36 (Mark 13:35-37; 1 Thess.5:1-6).

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The Praying Man

“...The earnest (heart-felt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available – dynamic in its working. James 5:16 (Amp)”

All the great men and women of God in the Old Testament were praying people, but the one given to us as the greatest example of prayer is Elijah.

“...The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” James 5:16 (NKJV).

Three principles to dynamic prayer are revealed in this verse:

Effective prayer

What made Elijah's prayer effective? What gave him the boldness, as an unknown from the highlands, to march right up to the King and make this dramatic declaration...

“...As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word” 1 Kings 17:1.

Elijah could speak with such audacity because he knew the Word of God! Read Deuter.11:13-17.

The nation of Israel had been in sin and idolatry for a long time but nothing had happened – the rain had not stopped. But to Elijah, this was not just a statement made by God in by-gone days. God's word was a living reality to Elijah for his generation (1 Kings 18:36-39). This is what gave him the authority to speak so boldly.

Fervent prayer

Read 1 Kings 18:41-46.

“Elijah...prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a

half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops” James 5:17-18.

Fervent prayer never gives up! (Matthew 7:7; 15:22-28). Elijah not only knew the promise of God, he knew the God who had made the promise! Like Abraham, Elijah...

“...considered him faithful who had made the promise” Hebrews 11:11.

Righteous prayer

Elijah's righteousness was not based upon himself – his own worthiness or goodness. As James specifically notes...

“Elijah was a man just like us...” 5:17.

1 Kings 19 reveals how human he was! Yet this was the man who prayed with such dramatic effect!

As believers in Christ we are declared righteous because of Christ's work on the Cross on our behalf. It is a free gift from God.

“For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last...” Romans 1:17.

To summarise...

- **Effective prayer** is based on the promises of God (Daniel 9:2-3).
- **Fervent prayer** is based on the character of God. He is faithful to His promises!
- **Righteous prayer** is based on relationship with God (1 John 3:1-3; Proverbs 15:8, 29).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The Prayer of Faith

“ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up...
James 5:15 ”

Pray in all situations

When you are in trouble

"Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray"
James 5:13a.

When you are happy

"Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise"
James 5:13b.

When you are sick

"Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him oil in the name of the Lord" James 5:14-15.

Key factors

If a Christian is sick there are three factors in God's healing provision:

Relationship in the Body

The calling of the elders depicts that we are part of a covenantal Body with its promises and provisions.

Obedience to God's Word

The act of calling the elders is obedience to God's way of dealing with a Christian's need. It also opens the way for the elders to minister to the Christian if there is any area in his or her life that has opened the door to the sickness (Ephesians 4:27).

"If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching..."
John 14:23.

The prayer of faith

"Now faith means putting our full confidence in the things we hope for, it means being certain

of things we cannot see" Hebrews 11:1 (Phillips).

Faith involves:

- Total dependence on God (Psalm 145:13).
- Holding the promise before God (Rom.4:18-21).
- Obedience to God's instruction (Rom.5:1).
- Total focus on God as healer (Psalm 121:1).
- Thanksgiving to God (2 Corinthians 2:14).

Why God heals

To relieve suffering

"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick"
Matthew 14:14 (see also Matthew 12:15).

To prove Jesus is alive

"...God raised him from the dead...By faith in the name of Jesus, this man...was made strong..." Acts 3:15-16.

To bring glory to God

"He (the Paralytic) got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God..." Mark 2:12.

To keep His promise

"...I am the Lord who heals you" Exodus 15:26.

To fulfil His provision in Christ

"...Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses" Matthew 8:17 (KJV) (see also Isaiah 53:4-5; Psalm 103:1-3).

To fulfil the great commission

"...they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well" Mark 16:18 (Acts 5:15-16).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The Searching of Prayer

“ As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God... Psalm 42:1-2 ”

Deep calls to deep

Our heart is expressed in prayer to know the depths of God. Like Moses, after all he had seen and experienced of the might, power and holiness of God, cried out to know Him in His fulness (Exodus 33:18), our heart cries out to know Him more.

The Holy Spirit searches

He searches our heart

"And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will" Rom.8:27.

He searches the heart of God

"...The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God" 1 Corinthians 2:10.

What is unsearchable of God the Holy Spirit searches, not for His own sake, but for ours. He is like a parent with a child eager to learn. The Holy Spirit searches the deep things of God with us.

What is the search?

Read the parables Jesus told of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great value (Matthew 13:44,45). As our hearts are led by the Holy Spirit in this quest to know God more He unveils to us...

God's unsearchable ways

"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!" Romans 11:33.

His unfathomable love

"...And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God" Ephesians 3:17-19.

His immeasurable power

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Eph.3:20-21.

His unsearchable riches

"Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ" Ephesians 3:8.

The hidden treasures

"To them [the saints] God has chosen to make known...the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory...in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" Colossians 1:27-2:3 (read from v.25).

This searching brings us into a new revelation of the heart of God. This awesome growing knowledge of God has tremendous effect upon our daily prayer and the whole understanding of the purpose of our life in the eternal plan of God (see 2 Cor.3:18).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Focus for Prayer

“...The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Matthew 9:37”

What we see with our eyes influences what we pray for. Our focus motivates our prayer and energises our faith.

“...I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest” John 4:35.

The example of Jesus

“...I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does” John 5:19.

Whatever the expression of ministry, Jesus declared that He did not rely on His own wisdom or purpose, but watched to see what His Father was doing. His preaching, His miracles and His prayers were not initiated by Himself, but were a response to the work of His Father. In the same way, when we pray, we have the privilege of joining the work that God is already doing in people's lives.

Praying for ourselves

“Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, ‘Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.’ And God granted his request” 1 Chronicles 4:10.

The Bible particularly encourages us to pray...

- For help and grace (Hebrews 4:16).
- So we can escape temptation (Matthew 26:41).
- For strength during persecution (Acts 4:24-31).

We have an open invitation from God to ask.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” Philippians 4:6.

But even when we pray for ourselves, what we “see” makes a difference to the way we pray. Faith is seeing beyond the present circumstances to the answer that God has promised.

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” Hebrews 11:1.

Joining God's purpose

“In Christ we find out who we are and what we are living for... [God] had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone” Ephesians 1:11 (The Message).

Prayer is much more than asking God for our own needs or desires. Prayer is the privilege extended by God to join Him in His glorious purpose! The focus of God's purpose colours our prayers. As we join with God in His purpose, we can pray...

- For one another (James 5:16).
- For ministries in the Body (2 Thess.3:1).
- For the sick and distraught (James 5:14-16).
- For those ensnared by sin (1 John 5:16).
- For our enemies (Matthew 5:44).
- For workers to be sent (Matthew 9:37).
- For doors of opportunity to be opened (Colossians 4:3; 1 Corinthians 16:9).

“...With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints” Ephesians 6:18.

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Angels With Us in Prayer

☪ If you make the Most High your dwelling...then no harm will befall you...For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. Psalm 91 9-11 ☪

Angels help us

Angels are involved with the Church and every part of our activity with God.

"But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly" Hebrews 12:22.

We should not be preoccupied with angels and definitely never worship them (read Col.2:18-19; Rev.22:8-9). However, we can know they are always there to help and encourage us. We are not alone.

"Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation" Hebrews 1:14 (see also Hebrews 13:2).

They are sent by God

It is essential to know the reality of Satan and his evil spirits but, more so, the mighty army of God that is with us in the spiritual war. Much of the battle over the lives of people is in the heavenly realms in prayer. But when we pray, God (not us) commands and releases his angelic armies to fight on our behalf (2 Chronicles 32:20-22).

"My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me..." Dan. 6:22.

They ministered to Jesus

Angels were an ever-present reality throughout the life of the Lord Jesus on the earth.

"...angels came and attended him" Matthew 4:11.

They minister to us

They act as messengers

"The angel answered, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news'" Luke 1:19 (see also Acts 8:26).

They protect and deliver

"So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him...Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared...and the chains fell of Peter's wrists...Peter followed him out of prison...Then Peter...said, 'Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches" Acts 12:5-11.

They strengthen, bring provision

"The angel of the Lord came...and said, 'Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you'...Strengthened by that food, he travelled forty days and forty nights..." 1 Kings 19:7-8.

They form a celestial army

"...an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city...'Don't be afraid,' the prophet answered. 'Those who are with us are more than those who are with them'. And Elisha prayed, 'O Lord, open his eyes so he may see' ...and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha" 2 Kings 6:15-17 (see also Joshua 5:13-17).

Let us be encouraged. When we pray, and when we stand for God, help is always at hand.

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

In the Name of Jesus

“ Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

John 16:24

To come in someone's name means to come on their behalf. Jesus did not come in His own name, but in the name of His Father (John 5:43). Now we do not come in prayer in our own name, but in the name of Jesus. The name of Jesus is very special for the believer. By His name, we are...

- Saved (Acts 4:12; Romans 10:13).
- Baptised (Acts 2:38; 8:16; 10:48; 19:5).
- Forgiven (Acts 10:43; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 1 John 2:12).
- Gathered (Matthew 18:20; 1 Corinthians 5:4).
- Protected (John 17:11-12).
- Healed and delivered (Acts 3:16; 16:18).
- Sent (Romans 1:5; John 17:18).

The authority of the Name

The name of Jesus is "far above" every other name in the universe! (Philippians 2:9-11). That name is vested with the full authority of Jesus' position at the right hand of the Father (Ephesians 1:20-21). In the same way someone might say, "In the name of the king...", so we can use this royal name...

In prayer - toward God

"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it" John 14:13.

In witness - toward people

"...He told them how Saul...had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them...speaking boldly in the name of the Lord" Acts 9:27-28.

In command - toward the enemy

"The seventy-two returned with joy and said, 'Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.' He replied... 'I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy...'" Luke 10:17 (see Mark 16:17).

Full proxy authority

"In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name" John 16:23.

Praying in Jesus' name is not just a formula that we use. It is far more than just adding the three words "in Jesus' name" at the end of our prayer. Praying in Jesus' name means we are praying in the place of Jesus Himself. When God hears our prayer, He hears His Son praying.

"Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father'" Galatians 4:6.

The name of Jesus can only be used by the believer, for we bear that name in both power and persecution (Acts 15:17; 1 Peter 4:16). The sons of Sceva discovered this when they tried to use the name outside of a relationship with Jesus (Acts 19:14-17). The authority of the name of Jesus is ours as we abide in Him (John 15:7,16).

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" Colossians 3:17 (see also Ephesians 5:20; 2 Thessalonians 1:12).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Five Kinds of Prayer

☪ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Eph.6:18 ☪

In his instructions to Timothy for that young man's ministry, Paul places the highest priority on prayer:

"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone" 1 Timothy 2:1.

The Greek word translated here "requests" has a double meaning. It also means "deprecation". So Paul reveals here five different kinds of prayer. As we "pray in the Spirit on all occasions" we will be led in these varieties of expression.

The variety of prayer

Requests

This is the simple prayer of asking but is powerful in its impact (see Matthew 8:5-13; Philippians 4:6).

"Ask and it will be given to you..." Matthew 7:7.

Deprecation

Deprecation means "to speak disapproval of". This is when we see something happening that is against the glory of God. King Hezekiah is a perfect example of this expression of prayer. All the surrounding nations had fallen to the Assyrian Empire and the army of the Assyrians had surrounded Jerusalem. When the king of the Assyrian empire sent a message to Hezekiah declaring that his God was no different to the gods of the other nations that had fallen to them, and that He had no power to save them, Hezekiah took his letter into the Temple, spread it out before the Lord, and prayed...

"O Lord, God of Israel...you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth...listen to the words

Sennacherib has sent to insult the living God...Now, O Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all kingdoms on earth may know that you alone, O Lord, are God" 2 Kings 19:15-19.

That was a prayer of deprecation. God answered and they were miraculously delivered by angelic intervention (read 2 Kings 19:35-37).

Pouring out of the heart

The Greek word translated "prayers" in 1 Timothy 2:1 literally means "the pouring out". This is an expression of prayer that comes from the very deep longings of our heart (see Hebrews 5:7). Hannah is an example of this kind of praying. She was childless and longed for a son.

"In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the Lord...As she kept on praying...Eli [the priest] thought she was drunk...'Not so, my lord'...'I was pouring out my soul to the Lord'...I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief" 1 Samuel 1:10-17.

Hannah got her son – Samuel, the great judge of Israel and prophet of God (1 Samuel 3:19-21).

Intercession

To intercede means "to come between, to meet on behalf of another" (Romans 8:26-27, 34). It is literally taking the place of the person or persons for whom we are praying (see the next lesson).

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is both a culmination of all the other kinds of prayer, and an expression of prayer itself (Philippians 4:6; 2 Corinthians 9:12-15)

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Joining God's Intercession

“ And He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor [no one to intervene on behalf of truth and right]... Isaiah 59:16 ”

Intercession is to stand in the place of another in prayer before God. Read about some of the great intercessors in the Bible – Abraham (Genesis 18:20-33); Moses (Exodus 32:9-14); Daniel (Daniel 9:2-19); Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1:2-11).

Intercession by Jesus

The greatest example of intercession is the Lord Jesus, Himself.

“Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us” Romans 8:34.

The death of Jesus on the Cross was the ultimate act of intercession. He was not dying for His own sin and guilt, but for ours. That was the final act of intercession for the sin of the human race – never to be repeated (Romans 6:10).

The continuing ministry

“Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them” Hebrews 7:25.

His ministry in Heaven right now is as our eternal High Priest (see Hebrews 7:21-8:1; 4:14-16), interceding before the Father for us. His ministry of intercession now is also expressed through His Body upon the earth.

“...the Spirit helps us in our weakness...himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express” Romans 8:26.

The Holy Spirit helps us to enter into the anointing expressing intercession in a number of ways:

Bearing the burden of the Lord

In prayer, the Holy Spirit may lay a burden on our heart so that we can feel the Lord's heart as He intercedes for a particular situation (read Luke 19:41-42). He brings the same challenge to us today that He brought to His disciples in the Garden:

“Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?” Matthew 26:40 (read vs 36-45).

Identification with others

Many times the Holy Spirit can give us the capacity to so identify with the needs of a person, or people, so as to actually feel what they are going through. This helps us to pray through to victory for them.

“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way fulfil the law of Christ” Galatians 6:2.

Spiritual labour to bring to birth

This is expressed in the deep groanings of the Spirit to bring something to birth in the spiritual realm. The apostle Paul said...

“Oh, my dear children, I feel the pangs of childbirth all over again till Christ be formed in you” Galatians 4:19 (Phillips) (see Romans 8:26).

Warfare against evil spirits

This intercession is involved in the proclaiming of Christ's victory against all the powers of darkness arrayed against people's lives (Ephesians 6:10-20). Intercession carries a special anointing from God and is behind every revival in history.

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The Value of Fasting

“ ...The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.
Matthew 9:15. ”

Fasting played a significant role in the fervency of the New Testament Church (Acts 9:9; 13:2-3; 14:23). But fasting is not about scoring points with either people or with God (see Matthew 6:16-18). A person who fasts is not more “spiritual”, nor do they gain God’s ear in a special way. Instead, fasting is a physical expression of the condition of one’s heart before God. The Lord does not respond to empty words or empty actions. He responds to the cry of our heart.

“Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice” Psalm 55:17.

Two kinds of fasting

There are two main kinds of fasting:

Fasting for a specific reason

There will be times when we are “driven” by God’s Spirit into a depth of seeking Him (see Matt.4:1-2), where fasting is the best expression of our hearts.

Fasting as a part of spiritual life

Fasting is the laying aside of normal physical appetites to express the strong spiritual appetite for God Himself. Many Christians have a discipline of fasting once a week or once a month.

Fasting that pleases God

“You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for a man to humble himself? Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed and for lying on sackcloth and ashes? Is that

what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?” Isaiah 58:4-5 (see also verses 3-4).

God encourages us to seek Him for answers to our personal needs (Matt.7:7-8; Heb.4:16), but fasting is not a self-centered activity (see Zechariah 7:5-6, 8-10). What pleases God, like everything else in the Christian life, involves two things:

- Faith (Hebrews 11:6)
- Action (James 2:26)

The Bible says that anything that does not come from faith is sin (Rom.14:23). The Scripture also says that true love toward God involves a love toward others (1 John 4:20-21). The kind of fasting that pleases God is a faith-inspired and love-motivated action which embraces the needs of others.

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?” Isaiah 58:6-7 (see also James 1:27).

The Lord has a very special promise for those who fast in the way that pleases Him:

“Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I” Isaiah 58:8-9.

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The Prayer of Jesus

“...May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. John 17:23”

The Heart of Jesus

John 17 records Jesus celebrating Passover with His disciples in the Upper Room. He knows that the time has come (verse 1) and in a few hours He will be bearing the sin of the world on the Cross. He lifts His heart to His Father in prayer. He is about to die for the world but His prayer is not for the world (verse 9). Notice the priority of His prayer...

For the Glory of God

“...Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you...I have brought you glory on earth...now glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began” (verses 1-5).

For His Disciples

“I pray...for those you have given me, for they are yours” (verse 9).

For All Who Will Believe in Him

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message” (verse 20).

Keynote of His Prayer

What He prays to His Father is what is uppermost on His heart before He leaves this world...

May They be One

“...I pray...that all of them may be one, Father...” (verses 20-23).

The focus of Jesus' prayer is for the *unity* of His Church! As we look at the Body of Christ today we wonder how could this prayer to possibly be answer-

ed. It seems even more impossible when we realise the *quality* of the unity He is praying for...

- **Highest unity** – not lowest level!
“...may (they) be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you...that they may be one as we are one...” verses 21-22.
- **Complete unity** – not partial!
“...May they be brought to complete unity...” verse 23.

Jesus is praying that all of us in the Body of Christ may have the same quality of unity in relationship as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

How Can it be Possible?

If Jesus prayed it, then it will come to pass! In His prayer He makes four declarations. These four statements of fact are the means by which His own prayer will be answered...

- “**I have finished the work**” (v.4) (NKJV).
- “**I have revealed you to them**” (v.6).
- “**I have given them your word**” (v.14-17).
- “**I have given them My glory**” (v.22-23).

Jesus is declaring a wonderful fact. Through His finished work, His glory is ours!

The *Church* holds the answer to a needy world. It is waiting to see the reality of that finished work in us as a Body! So Jesus prays for us! Let us join His heart in prayer for His Body, that we will discover and experience more and more the wonder of what He has done. Then His prayer will be fulfilled!

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Look Out - The Church is Praying!

It is important to realise that the Church's mission is to change lives, families, communities, cities and nations through prayer

Church lifts its voice

"...they [Sanhedrin]...commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus...After further threats they let them go...When they [the Church] heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God" Acts 4:18-24.

In the face of imprisonment and great persecution, with one heart they...

Confess Who is in control

"Sovereign Lord,' they said, 'you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them...' Acts 4:24.

Request boldness to speak

"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus" Acts 4:29-30.

Experience God's power

"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. All the believers were one in heart and mind...With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and much grace was upon them all" Acts 4:31-33.

Church devoted to prayer

"They devoted themselves to...prayer" Acts 2:42.

In answer to prayer...

Miracles happen

"...Then Peter said...'In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.'...instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them...walking and jumping and praising God" Acts 3:6-8 (see also Acts 5:12,15-16; 9:32-42).

Word of God spreads

"We... will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word'...so the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly..." Acts 6:3-7.

Angels sent to deliver

"So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him...Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared...Peter followed him out of the prison" Acts 12:5-11; 27:9-10, 20-26.

Missionaries sent

"While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off" Acts 13:2-3.

Supernaturally rescued

"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God...suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose..." Acts 16:25-26.

Making the Truth Mine

Write out in full the scripture from this lesson which means the most to you. We encourage you to commit this verse to memory.

Write out one statement from the study which you feel is most significant for your life.

Write in your own words how you believe you should respond to the truth of this study. Are there any decisions you should make?

You can make a difference!

For this study to have its full effect in your life, we encourage you to:

- Read and digest the study – meditate on the Word of God.
- Put into action what you have learnt (James 1:22).
- Share the Word of God with others.

Your places of ministry have been pre-arranged by God: your home, the street you live on, your place of work and your church.

“I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free” Psalm 119:32.

Food for Thought

Sending God's Word to the Ends of the Earth

The Word of God made available in a
clear, simple layout for personal study
and for use in sharing with others.

The King's Table is designed to help...

- ***Every believer for personal study***
- ***Parents to teach their children***
- ***Leaders of home groups***
- ***Ministers of congregations***
- ***Christian schools and home schooling***
- ***Missionary projects to other nations***

Our Project 21 series for leaders has been widely received and multiplied throughout Asia and the Pacific. The reports from many places of growth and blessing encourage us greatly in the spreading of the life-giving Word of God. It is something that for us never loses its excitement.

The King's Table is an extension of the Project 21 teaching program, where people like yourself can receive a different series of 21 lessons each month. Our prayer is that this series might be a great blessing to you.

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