



Prayer and the Growth of True Community: How the Church Grew in Number and Spirit Through Prayer

Greg Wendschlag August 4, 2024

“Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:41-47

How does a group of confused and afraid people become the dynamic church of Acts 2?

- 10 days of prayer?
- 40 days of resurrection witness?
- 3 years of being with Jesus?
- The giving of the indwelling Holy Spirit?

Prayer = communication with God, speaking and listening. 1 Thess. 5:17

“On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” Acts 1:4-5

- Disciples desire: “Lord, are you now going to give us power?” (control over others).
- Jesus’ promise: “You will receive power (the nature of God) when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will BE my witnesses...”

What did Jesus say the Holy Spirit would do?

- He will be in you. You will be one with God. Jn. 14:17, 20
- Teach you all things and remind you of everything Jesus taught. Jn. 14:26
- Testify about Jesus. Jn. 15:26-27
- Convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment
 - Sin – because people do not believe.
 - Righteousness – because Jesus went to the Father.
 - Judgment – because Satan already stands condemned.
- He will guide you into all truth.
- He will bring glory to the Father.

“In that day you will no longer ask Me anything. Very truly I tell you, My Father will give you whatever you ask in My name. ²⁴ Until now you have not asked for anything in My name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete...²⁶ In that day you will ask in My name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. ²⁷ No, the Father Himself loves you because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from God.” Jn. 16:23-27