

WEEK THREE: FOCUSED PRAYER

Prayer is undervalued in a prosperous country where we look to methods, technology, finances, talent, and effort to accomplish our goals. These blessings can become idols and substitute for humility, repentance, and fervently seeking God. Prayer and fasting have extraordinary spiritual power because we are coming to God admitting how much we truly need His help. God hears our prayers, moves in mighty ways, and receives all the glory. God wants us to pray specifically for more workers in the harvest field, boldness, opportunities, protection, and the success of the gospel.

● OPENING QUESTION

From last week's application, how challenging was it to pray steadily throughout the week for each other?

● READ

Acts 4:23-31

Do you ever feel like giving up? Are you tempted to tap out because the cost of following Jesus is so high? Do you get discouraged because the culture is rebelling against God and His Word? The fierce challenges that the early Church faced drove them to prayer. They were desperate and raw, yet their confidence in God was growing and their convictions were deepening.

● REFLECT

Acts 4:23-31

WHO IS GOD?

WHAT HAS GOD DONE?

WHO ARE WE?

HOW DO WE LIVE?

● REPENT

Prayerlessness is disobedience. Have you believed the lies that prayer is not very powerful, not worth your time, or not very important? Have procrastination and distraction dislodged your top priorities? The devil does not want you to get on your knees, humble yourself, and seek God. God will never despise a contrite heart. What changes would be very positive for your spiritual life in the area of prayer?

● RESPOND

MIND: How does God help you to pray? (Romans 8:26-32)

HEART: How does God transform you as you pray? (Matthew 9:35-38)

HANDS: As you take time to pray, lift your hands in surrender to God and offer Him your schedule, talents, treasure, and time (Isaiah 6:3-8); listen for His direction. Write down what you sense God wants and share that with someone.

● PRAYER

Pray for the remaining task of bringing the gospel to all of the Sound and all nations. (Matthew 24:14)