

Title: Continued with one accord in prayer and supplication

Text: Acts 1

INTRODUCTION

1. The Lord Jesus had modelled for His disciples what it means to live a life of prayer
 - a. Rising a long while before daylight to pray
 - b. Praying over the selection of the Apostles
 - c. Teaching them how men ought to pray
 - d. Watching and praying as He prepared to die on the cross

2. The question now is this:

Will the disciples be able to follow the example of the Lord Jesus, and pray as He did?

3. Turning to the Book of Acts
 - a. It is a record of the Acts of the Apostles
 - b. It shows how they became witnesses of the Lord Jesus to every place
 - c. It reveals how they embodied the teachings and example of the Lord Jesus

PRAYER – IT MARKED A CHANGE IN THE APOSTLES

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Acts 1:14

1. Compare what the Apostles were like before, as recorded in the Gospels
 - a. They could not watch and pray for one hour
Even at a time of great importance (Matthew 26:40)
 - b. They gave in to the weakness of the flesh

- c. They were also frequently divided, each seeking to be the “greatest” (Matthew 20:20-28)

2. The Apostles in the time of Acts

- a. They were obedient to the Lord’s command
To wait patiently in Jerusalem for the Promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4)
- b. But they were not idle; they continued
 - i. With one accord
 - ii. In prayer
 - iii. And supplication
- c. The word “continued” (Greek: proskartereo)
 - i. Denotes the idea of strength, steadfastness, attentiveness
 - ii. Illustrates how the Apostles went about in prayer and supplication

PRAYER – IT BECAME CHARACTERISTIC OF THE APOSTLES

²⁴ And they prayed and said, “You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen ²⁵ to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.”

Acts 1:24-25

1. There arose the issue of who would take the place of Judas Iscariot
2. It was Peter who took the lead as he raised it up
 - a. No longer did he speak out of turn
 - b. He was guided by the Scriptures
 - c. He spoke with wisdom and authority

3. Though they shortlisted two men (Barsabas and Matthias), they committed the final decision to the Lord in prayer
4. Prayer had become a characteristic of the Apostles
 - a. It was no longer just a practice – it had become part of who they were
 - b. They committed all things to God in prayer
5. This mark of prayer extended beyond the Apostles

Prayer became the hallmark of all who followed Christ (Acts 2:42)

PRAYER – IT PREPARED THE APOSTLES FOR THE CHALLENGE AHEAD

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

1. The work the Apostles were called to accomplish
 - a. To be witnesses of the Lord to the ends of the earth
 - b. To undertake the immense task of developing the first church
 - i. Establishing leadership
 - ii. Laying the foundations of doctrine
 - iii. Making disciples
 - iv. Attending to the needs of believers
2. What enabled them to meet such a challenge?
 - a. God’s part
He gave to them the Power of the Holy Spirit

- b. Their part
They prayed – and they supplicated!
- c. The idea of supplication:
It is to make earnest requests to God
- d. The Apostles' requests may well have included
 - i. Strength
 - ii. Boldness
 - iii. Wisdom and discernment
 - iv. Enlightenment
 - v. Unity

LESSONS FOR US TO TAKEAWAY

1. We can look forward to a deeper, changed prayer life
2. Let us endeavor to make prayer a characteristic of our lives
3. Let us not be afraid the challenges ahead, but seek the Lord's help in prayer