

**THE SPIRIT
EMPOWERED**

CHURCH

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The Praying Church

2 Corinthians 5:13-14

If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For Christ’s love compels us...

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Do you love praying?

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Acts 12:1-17 It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. ² He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. ³ When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the **Festival of Unleavened Bread**. ⁴ After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover. ⁵ So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

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Acts 12:1-17 ⁶ The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. ⁷ Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. “Quick, get up!” he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists.

⁸ Then the angel said to him, “Put on your clothes and sandals.” And Peter did so. “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me,” the angel told him. ⁹ Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision.

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Acts 12:1-17 ¹⁰ They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.

¹¹ Then Peter came to himself and said, “Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod’s clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen.” ¹² When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. ¹³ Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door.

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Acts 12:1-17 ¹⁴ When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"

¹⁵ "You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel."

¹⁶ But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. ¹⁷ Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. "Tell James and the other brothers and sisters about this," he said, and then he left for another place.

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The Church spent a lot of time praying

- **Acts 1:14** They all joined together constantly in prayer
- **Acts 1:24** Then they prayed, Show us which of these two you have chosen
- **Acts 2:42** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
- **Acts 4:29-31** Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.
- **Acts 6:4** ...and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”
- **Acts 7:59** While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

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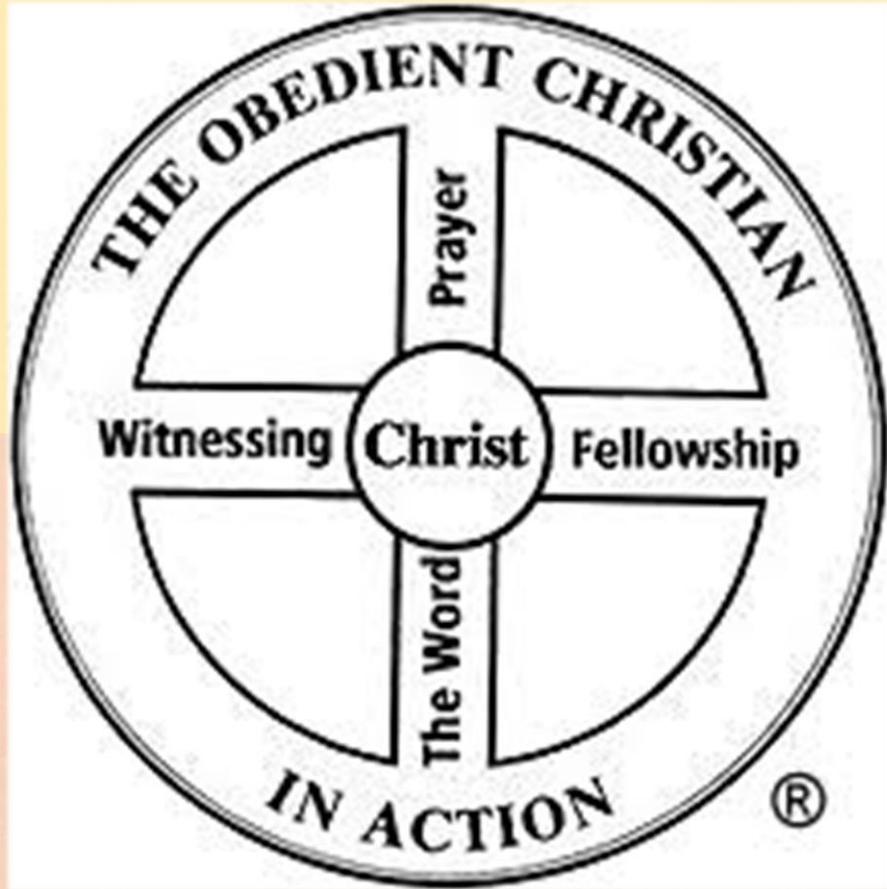
- **Acts 10:9** Peter went up on the roof to pray.
- **Acts 10:30** Cornelius answered: “Three days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me
- **Acts 13:2** While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

Jesus spent a lot of time praying

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**What keeps us from loving prayer
and devoting ourselves to it ?**

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ACTS

(A) Adoration

(C) Confession

(T) Thanksgiving

(S) Supplication

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Prayer is a child coming to their Father

Luke 11:10-12 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?

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Prayer is partnering with the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:14-15 For those who are **led by the Spirit of God** are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, *“Abba, Father.”*

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Challenge

- Find a private spot
- Set a timer for one hour
- Approach God as your Father who loves connecting and partnering with you
- Welcome the Holy Spirit and listen
- Pray: Focus on our church, your family or people in your neighborhood, work or school

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