

ACTS: A Church Afire

Prayer: The Power to be on Mission

Acts 1:12-26

The context ...

Over 500 people have just witnessed the _____ of Jesus.

They've all been given an _____ and an _____: "You will be my witnesses ...", coupled with a _____: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit is come upon you ...".

What do the leaders of the soon-to-be established church do next?

Why?

Why we pray:

We pray because we are devoted to _____, not just devoted to _____. Prayer is an expression of _____.

We pray because we have been _____ by Jesus. He commanded it. Modeled it. Practiced it.

We pray because Jesus the King is ascended to the right hand of the Father where he rules all things with _____ and _____. He _____. He _____. He _____.

We pray because we _____ what Jesus has said to us and long to see his words _____. This arms our prayers with _____ and _____.

We pray because God has woven our prayers into _____. He uses our prayers to accomplish what he has already _____.

CASE STUDY: _____ / _____

Psalm 69

Luke 22:28-30

Scripture ... reason ... prayer ...

A note on "Apostles":

We pray because our skills, strengths, and resources are _____ for the mission Jesus has called us to.

How we pray:

With _____. Scripture-driven. Promise-based. Genuine.

With _____. Single-minded. Purposeful. Specific.

With _____. Proactive. Consistent. Intentional. Normal.

With _____. Jesus is everybody's "heart-knower". Pray accordingly.

The stage is now set for the day of Pentecost. The Apostles have received Christ's commission and seen his ascension. The apostolic team is complete again, ready to be his chosen witnesses. Only one thing is missing: the Spirit has not yet come. Though the place left vacant by Judas has been filled by Matthias, the place left vacant by Jesus has not yet been filled by the Spirit. So we leave Luke's first chapter of the Acts with the 120 waiting in Jerusalem, persevering in prayer with one heart and mind, poised ready to fulfill Christ's command just as soon as he has fulfilled his promise.

John R.W. Stott, *The Message of Acts*, pp. 59

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