

Acts 1:12-14 (NLT)

Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. ¹³ When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying. Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the Zealot), and Judas (son of James). ¹⁴ They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.

Acts 2:42-43 (NLT)

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. ⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.

The book of Acts, written by Luke, provides a dramatic and powerful account of the birth and expansion of the early church from the time Jesus ascended into heaven until Paul arrives in Rome.

I. The early church was a _____.

They all met together and were constantly united in prayer.

Acts I:14 (NLT)

2. The early church was a ______.

A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed <u>many miraculous</u> signs and wonders.

Acts 2:43 (NLT)

3. The early church understood that they needed to _____

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. Acts 2:42 (NLT)

Prayer serves as the ______ that links our spirit with God's Spirit.

But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

I Corinthians 6:17 (NIV)

Every one of our prayers is being kept at God's altar.

He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden alter in front of the throne.

Revelation 8:3 (NIV)

Prayer gives us COURAGE.

Prayer leads to <u>REVIVAL</u>.

Always be joyful. <u>Never stop praying</u>. Whatever happens, give thanks, because it is God's will in Christ Jesus that you do this.

I Thessalonians 5:16-18 (GW)

- I. Lord, make us a church devoted to prayer. Devote yourself to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2 (NIV)
- 2. Lord, make us a church that prays for all its members and all occasions. Pray in Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayer and requests. With this in mind (spiritual battles) be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)
- **3.** Lord, make us a church that asks, seeks, and knocks. Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)
- 4. Lord, make us a church that does great things for God by prayer. Very truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. John 14:12-14 (NRSV)
- 5. Lord, make us a church that transforms its community by prayer. Work for the good of the city where I've taken you as captives, and pray to the Lord for that city. When it prospers, you will also prosper. Jeremiah 29:7 (GW)
- 6. Lord, make us a church that prays faithfully for its leaders. Brothers and sisters, I encourage you through our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love that the Spirit creates, to join me in my struggle. Pray to God for me. Romans 15:30 (GW)
- 7. Lord, make us a church that prays for those who do not know you. I urge you, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. I Timothy 2:1,3,4 (NIV)

Sources: Pastor Monica in collaboration with Pastor John. Scripture Prayer Guide, by Alvin VanderGriend