

		sermon notes
	<p>March 14 + 15, 2015 Debra Merrill Principles for a Powerful Prayer Meeting <small>LISTEN, GET NOTES + SHARE AT CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/MEDIA</small></p>	

Acts 12:1-11 (NIV) Peter's Miraculous Escape from Prison

⁵ So Peter was kept in prison, but **the church was earnestly praying to God for him.**

Acts 4:23-31 (NLT) The Believers Pray for Courage

²⁴ When they heard the report, **all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God...**

³¹ After this prayer, the **meeting place shook**, and **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.** Then they preached the word of God with boldness.

Acts 2:42-43 (NLT) The Believers Form a Community

⁴² 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.

Individual Prayer versus Church Prayer

5 proofs of the importance of Church prayer:

1. What the apostles _____ and _____.
2. What Jesus _____ and _____ in prayer.
3. Pattern of scripture before and after resurrection.
4. God's greatest works throughout history have come when Christians were in _____ prayer.
5. Mighty moves of God today occur where believers _____.

Christianity is growing in those areas of the world where survival is at stake.

Christianity is declining in those areas of the world where wealth has replaced the need for God.

What does Church Prayer look like?

1. _____ FOCUSED

We need to _____ God's agenda and follow God's _____.

2. _____ FOCUS

They all met together and were constantly united in prayer. Acts 1:14 (NLT)

3. INVEST _____.

4. _____.

We want YOUR will; we want what YOU want; change our lives; change the lives of those around us; use us to do YOUR will, not OURS.

He is longing to hear us and to show us His power! The more we pray for what He wants us to pray for, the more we will see His power! Then we will see the supernatural the way that the Apostles did!

- Francis Chan

1. **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. 1 Timothy 2:1,3-4 (NIV)

Sources: *Principles for a Powerful Prayer Meeting* sermon by Lloyd Stillely; *And the Place was Shaken* by John Franklin; *Prayer RNM* video by Matt Chandler; *We are Church – Prayer* video by Francis Chan; *Prayer* by Philip Yancey