

# Acts – Faith in Motion

## Significance of Prayer



### I. Apostle's Prayers

Acts 4:23-31 (NIV®)

<sup>23</sup> On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup> **When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God.** "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. <sup>25</sup> You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: "Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.

<sup>27</sup> Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. <sup>28</sup> They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. <sup>29</sup> Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

<sup>30</sup> **Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.** <sup>31</sup> **After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.**

Acts 6:1-4 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup> So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup> Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup> and **will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.**"

### II. Prayer in Luke

Luke 1:11-13 (NIV®)

<sup>11</sup> Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. <sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; **your prayer has been heard.** Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John.

### Jesus' Prayers

Luke 6:12-13 (NASB®)

<sup>12</sup> It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. <sup>13</sup> And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles:

Luke 5:15-16 (NASB®)

news about Him was spreading even farther, and large crowds were gathering to hear *Him* and to be healed of their sicknesses. <sup>16</sup> But **Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.**

Luke 9:28 (NIV)

<sup>28</sup> About eight days after Jesus said this, **he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray.**

### Jesus' Teaching

Luke 18:1-5 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples a parable **to show them that they should always pray and not give up.** <sup>2</sup> He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. <sup>3</sup> And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' <sup>4</sup> "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'"

## Prayer Learned

Luke 11:1-2 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "**Lord, teach us to pray**, just as John taught his disciples." <sup>2</sup> He said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.

## Prayer RE: temptation

Luke 22:39-40 (NIV®)

<sup>39</sup> Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup> On reaching the place, he said to them, "**Pray that you will not fall into temptation.**"

Luke 22:46 (NIV)

<sup>46</sup> "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "**Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.**"

## Prayer of Deliverance

Luke 21:34-36 (NIV®)

<sup>34</sup> "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. <sup>35</sup> For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be always on the watch, and **pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen**, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

## III. Give Thanks

Romans 1:21 (NIV®)

<sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, **they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him**, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Colossians 1:12-14 (NIV®)

<sup>12</sup> **giving thanks to the Father**, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. <sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Ephesians 5:20 (NIV®)

<sup>20</sup> **always giving thanks** to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 13:15 (NASB®)

<sup>15</sup> Through Him then, let us **continually offer** up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of **lips that give thanks** to His name.

### Declaration of Confidence in God's Protection

No weapon that is formed against me will prosper and every tongue that arises against me in judgment I do condemn.

This is my heritage as a servant of the Lord and my righteousness is from You, O Lord of Hosts.

If there are those who have been speaking or praying against me or my family, seeking to harm us or who have rejected us, I forgive them. I forgive \_\_\_\_\_.

Having forgiven them, I bless them in the name of the Lord.

Now I declare, O Lord, that You and You alone are my God and beside You there is no other; a just God and a Savior, the Father, the Son and the Spirit and I worship You.

I submit myself afresh to You today in unreserved obedience.

Having submitted to You, Lord, I do as Your Word directs. I resist the devil; and all his pressures, his attacks, his deceptions and every instrument or agent he would seek to use against me or my family.

I do not submit! I resist him, drive him from us and exclude him from us in Jesus' name.

Specifically I reject and repel: infirmity, infection, pain, inflammation, malignancies, allergies, viruses, every form of witchcraft and every type of stress.

Finally, Lord, I thank You that through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, I have passed out from under the curse and entered into the blessings of Abraham whom You blessed in all things: exaltation, health, reproductiveness, prosperity, victory, God's favor and God's friendship.

Amen

Matthew 5:43-45 Romans 12:14 Galatians 3: 13-14 Genesis 24:1

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