

## Scripture Reading

### **Acts 2:42-43 (NIV)**

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.

1) Corporate prayer is the first thing the church is recorded as doing.

### **Acts 1:12-14 (NIV)**

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. <sup>13</sup> When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

### **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.

2) The spirit is willing

### **Matthew 26:40-41 (NIV)**

<sup>40</sup> Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you men not

keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. <sup>41</sup> "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

### 3) Worry and fear or prayer and faith

#### **Philippians 4:6 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

### 4) Making time for prayer

#### **Colossians 4:2 (NIV)**

<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful

"I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time- waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God- it changes me." ~ **C.S. Lewis**

#### *Prayers for bulletin*

*"Those persons who know the deep peace of God, the unfathomable peace that passeth all understanding, are always men and women of much prayer."* ~ **R. A. Torrey**

*"Don't pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A man is powerful on his knees."* ~ **Corrie ten Boom**

*"Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer."* ~ **John Bunyan**

*"We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties."* ~ **Oswald Chambers**