

The Church That Prays Together

You've probably heard the expression, "The family that prays together, stays together." Does that describe your family? Do you pray together at meals and on other occasions? Just like a physical family, the spiritual family, the local church, is the same. The church that prays together, stays together.

The local church at Jerusalem is a good example of this. This church faced persecution from without (Acts 4, 7-8, 12) and problems from within (Acts 5-6). Yet, the Jerusalem church remained unified and strong through prayer. They prayed together during persecution (Acts 4:23-31), times of need (Acts 6:4-6), and for Peter's release from prison (Acts 12:5, 12).

Let's take a closer look at their prayer in Acts 4:23-31. When this church prayed together there was unity (4:23-24) - prayer is a uniting force for Christians. There was also an emphasis on scripture (4:25-26) - praying with scripture shows that Christians are full of God's word. There was belief in God's greatness (4:24, 28, 30) and in the Lord's anointed (Acts 4:27, 30) - prayer magnifies God and Jesus. There was a need for God's help (4:29) - prayer for boldness to face the world. There was an answer to their prayer (4:31) - prayers will be answer by God.

Like the Jerusalem church, let's be the church that prays together, so we can stay together! - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- Bad habits are like comfortable beds; easy to get into, but hard to get out of.
- The one thing worse than a quitter is the man who is afraid to begin.
- Put some interest in your future; that's where you'll spend the rest of your life.
- Life is a grindstone, and whether it polishes you up, or grinds you down, depends on the stuff of which you are made.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
For More Information Call
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited By
Chris Reeves
(615) 389-3250
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com
TheGoodTeacher.com

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Why Do You Wait, Dear Sinner?

There is an old song in our song book titled: “Why Do You Wait, Dear Sinner?” This is a great question and it was actually asked in the New Testament. Ananias asked Saul, “Why do you tarry (delay), arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name” (Acts 22:16). Saul got up and was baptized!

If you have not been baptized scripturally for the remission of your sins, you need to get up and be baptized. If you have erred from the truth as a Christian, you need to get up and repent, confess, and pray (1 John 1:7-9). Why do you wait?

Why Wait?

There is no need to wait. There was a sense of urgency in the ministry of Jesus (John 9:4). He wanted to save people! There was a sense of urgency in the conversions in the book of Acts (2:37,41; 8:36-38; 16:33). The apostles wanted to save people! There was a sense of urgency in restoring the erring (Acts 8:20-24).

Where is the Urgency Today?

Some people in the New Testament were not urgent (Acts 24:24-25; 26:28). They procrastinated and were “almost” persuaded. In a similar way, urgency today is dulled by materialism, worldliness, indifference, pluralism, ignorance, etc. People today just want to wait. But, what are you waiting for?

Are You Wait For...

God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit to do something? Don't wait. They have already acted on your behalf (1 Timothy 2:4; Titus 2:11; 2 Peter 3:9).

Family, friends, or others to get right? Don't wait. You take care of your responsibilities regardless of what others do (John 21:21-22; Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

Your life to be put “in order”? Don't wait. You start your improvement by becoming a Christian (Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

The hypocrites to go away? Don't wait. There are hypocrites everywhere (including hell, Matthew 24:51), but that should not deter you from doing right.

What friends and family might think? Don't wait. You must put the Lord first (Matthew 10:34-37). You need to be concerned about what pleases God, not what friends and family think (John 8:29; Galatians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:4; 1 John 3:22).

The need to be saved? Don't wait. You may be a “good” person, but that alone will not save you (Acts 2:5; 6:7; 8:27; 10:2; 16:14; 23:1).

A convenient opportunity? Don't wait. A convenient opportunity may never come (Acts

24:25; 2 Corinthians 6:2).

More Knowledge? Don't wait. You need to know enough to:

Hear the gospel (Acts 15:7)
Believe the gospel (Romans 1:16-17)
Repent of your sins (Acts 17:30)
Confess Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9-10)
Be baptized (Acts 2:38; 22:16).
Walk faithfully each day (Ephesians 4:1).

There will be time for growth after you become a Christian (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Peter 1:5; 3:18).

A direct operation of the Holy Spirit, or a “calling” from God? Don't wait. The Holy Spirit works through his word and God “calls” through his word (Galatians 3:2; Ephesians 6:17; 2 Thessalonians 2:14).

The Lord to give you faith? Don't wait. Faith comes by hearing God's word (Acts 15:7; Romans 10:17).

Are There Other Excuses?

“I'm enjoying my life now...”, “I'm not good enough...”, “I'm afraid I can't follow through...”, “I feel saved...”, “I've already been baptized...”, etc. Why do you wait, dear sinner? Wait no more! No more excuses (Luke 14:15-24)! No more delays (Acts 22:16)! No more putting off until tomorrow (James 4:14)! Friend, you can be saved today. Don't wait! - Chris Reeves