



the early
CHURCH

Prayer | Breaking Bread | Teaching | Fellowship
ACTS 2:42

the series...

1. What JESUS said...
2. What the EARLY CHURCH did...
3. What EARLY PENTECOSTALS did...
4. What THE CHURCH TODAY needs to do...



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PEOPLE WHO
PRAY

What JESUS said...



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What JESUS said...

Matthew 6:5-13

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you...



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What JESUS said...

Matthew 6:5-13

...And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for the many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this...



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What JESUS said...

Matthew 6:5-13

...Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come, Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our debts,

As we also have forgiven our debtors

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.”



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What JESUS said...

Matthew 6:5-13

1. Between you and God
2. Simple is better than empty words
3. The Lord's Prayer – A Model ...
 - Praise to God and recognizing His will
 - Ask for what we need for today
 - Forgiving nature
 - Protection for the journey ahead
 - *No singular pronouns* – “Our Father...”



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What the EARLY CHURCH did...



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What the EARLY CHURCH did...

Acts 2:42

“...they devoted themselves to the apostles’
teaching and the *fellowship*, to the *breaking of*
bread and the *PRAYERS*.”



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What the EARLY CHURCH did...

The Lord's Prayer

The Didache (1st / 2nd century)

“Teaching of the 12 Apostles”

- Say the Lord's prayer 3 times daily

Doxology...

“For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen”

– Added 4th/5th century



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What the EARLY CHURCH did...

Praying

Apostolic Tradition

- Christians should pray 7 times a day (4th century)

Liturgical Prayers

- As Christianity develops, scripted prayers became routine and normal.



What EARLY PENTECOSTALS did...



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What EARLY PENTECOSTALS did...

Prayer

Prayer in the fellowship

- Most significant activity
- All who pray open themselves to what the Spirit is doing among them

Praying in the Spirit

1. With words understood
2. Without words
3. With words not understood



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What EARLY PENTECOSTALS did...

Garrigus - Newfoundland

Hunger for God...

Reading the “The Christian’s Secret of a Happy Life,” she prayed, “O God, if there be such an experience, won’t you bring me into it?”



What EARLY PENTECOSTALS did...

Garrigus - Newfoundland

Consistent Prayer...

in “The Christian’s Secret of a Happy Life” ...

“Let us then pray, every one of us, day and night, ‘Lord keep us from sinning, and make us living witnesses of Thy might power to save to the uttermost’; and let us never be satisfied until we are so pliable in His hands, and have learned so to trust in Him.”



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**What THE CHURCH TODAY
needs to do...**



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What THE CHURCH TODAY needs to do...

Life of Prayer

1. The Lord's prayer model
2. Prayer needs to be the centre of who we are
3. Scripted prayers are ok when meaningful
4. Spirit guidance – key to genuine prayers
 - Personal direction
 - Intercession
 - God's will for His Church



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What THE CHURCH TODAY needs to do...

How do we pray?

We pray to the FATHER!

“Dear, Heavenly Father...”

We pray in power of the SPIRIT!

Guidance on what to say, connection, fellowship,
becoming open to what the Spirit is doing among us.

We pray in the name of the SON!

“...in Jesus name, Amen.”



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What THE CHURCH TODAY needs to do...

Practical Thoughts

1. *Week of prayer* (Jan 8th-11th)

Join us as we pray for this year...

2. *Prayer Meetings* (Tuesday nights @ 7:30pm)

3. *Pre-Service Prayer* (Sunday mornings @ 10am)

Join us as we pray for our Sunday gathering...

4. *Private Life*



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The early church was devoted...
Are We?



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