

Sunday School Lesson for the Month of February, 2025

The Power of Earnest Prayer

(Acts 12:1-16; Acts 13:1-12)

Sunday, February 2, 2025

Acts 12-13 offers interesting glimpses of two Congregations at Prayer. The Jerusalem Church is described in Acts 12 and the Antioch Church in Acts 13. These chapters show the relationship between prayer and some crucial concerns in the life of a church.

Herod's persecution brought James' death and Peter's arrest. While Peter was in jail, "*the church was earnestly praying.*" At Mary's house, "many were gathered together praying" (12:12). Peter was delivered and arrived at the house where he was greeted by an amazed congregation.

- Why should they be amazed after "earnestly praying" for this very event?
- Was their faith lacking?
- Were they surprised God did it without their physical help or personal intervention to the authorities?

Earnest prayer has amazing results. Let us wait on the Lord and see in our church the amazing power of earnest prayer.

Sunday, February 9, 2025

I. Pray Earnestly For God To Bless The Church's Outreach.

- A. The close of the chapter gives the long-term results of prayer: "The word of God grew and multiplied" (Acts 12:24). This is an excellent description of church growth. The prayer meeting at Mary's house showed the Jerusalem Church a useful lesson: **God uses a people prepared by Prayer.**
- B. The marvelous movement of people toward God has been launched with God's people in fervent prayer. Prayer and church growth travel together.

Sunday, February 16, 2025

II. Pray Earnestly For The Lord To Bless His Laborers.

The Antioch Church became the center of Christian outreach; the church is an inspiring example of prayer for the laborers in the field.

- A. Prayer is involved in sending out. The church worshipped, prayed, and fasted. Then the Missionary workers were chosen and set apart (Acts 13:2). Jesus instructed us to pray for laborers (Matt. 9:37-38); “the needs of the world are great, and the laborers are few.”
- B. Prayer is involved in the success of the laborers. Paul spoke for every believer when he said, “Pray for us also, that God may open to us a door for the word” (Col. 4:3). Our prayers affect the success of the warriors on the front line (2 Thess. 3).
- C. Prayer is involved in the safety of the Lord’s laborers. Paul requested prayer, “that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men; for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful” (2 Thess. 3:1-3).

Sunday, February 23, 2025

III. Pray Earnestly For The Lord’s Power Over The Enemy.

- A. The laborers left Antioch and soon encountered a personal servant of the devil (Acts 13:6-12). Paul confronted him and had victory in dealing with him. Our battle is against the “spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Eph. 6:12). The armor of the Lord to fight these spiritual forces is to be used with prayer [v. 18].
- B. Jesus promised power against the enemy. Christ’s death and resurrection have rendered the devil powerless. Every Christian participates in that victory. We claim the power of that victory as we “pray at all times in the spirit” (Eph. 6:18).

The earnest prayer of the church will allow God to move in power. The Church will grow; workers will go and serve successfully. The forces of evil will be confronted and conquered. Such is the power of earnest prayer!