

“Growing Our Church God’s Way: A Growing Church is a **Praying** Church”

Matthew 6:5-13; Acts 2:42

Scripture reading: Matthew 6:5-13 KJV “And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are*: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ⁶ But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. ⁷ But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. ⁸ Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. ⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”

Acts 2:42 KJV “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

Message title: “Growing Our Church God’s Way: A Growing Church is a **Praying** Church”

1. A Growing Church Prays **Privately**

Mark 1:35 “And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.”

Luke 5:16 “And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.”

Mark 14:35 “And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.”

2. A Growing Church Prays **Corporately**

Acts 1:24-25 “And they **prayed**, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, ²⁵ That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.”

Acts 2:42 “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in **prayers**.”

Acts 2:47b “...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

Acts 4:31 “And when they had **prayed**, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.”

Acts 12:5 “Peter therefore was kept in prison: but **prayer** was made without ceasing of the **church** unto God for him.”

2 Corinthians 1:11 “Ye also helping together by **prayer** for us, that for the gift *bestowed* upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.”

3. A Growing Church Prays Scripturally

a. Scriptural Prayer Focuses on God's Fatherhood and Resources

Genesis 1:16 "And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: *he made* the stars also."

1 John 4:19 "We love him, because he first loved us."

Ephesians 1:3 "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:"

b. Scriptural Prayer Focuses on God's Name

c. Scriptural Prayer Focuses on God's Plan and Will

d. Scriptural Prayer Focuses on God's Physical Provision

2 Corinthians 9:10-11 "Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) ¹¹ Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God."

e. Scriptural Prayer Focuses on God's Spiritual Provision

1 John 1:8-9 "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

f. Scriptural Prayer Focuses on God's Protection

James 1:2-4 "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴ But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

g. Scriptural Prayer Focuses on God's Glory

4. The Application