

Acts 2:42-47 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (NIV)

Ancient Habit #3: _____

"They devoted themselves... to prayer."

Acts 2:42 They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers. (MESSAGE)

The Big Idea: Prayer is the "behind-the-scenes" _____ for life "when the lights come up."

In life in general...

- 1) It is naive to expect excellence or expertise in any activity without _____.
- 2) Expertise and excellence is never achieved through simply _____ like an expert when "the lights are on."

In spiritual life especially...

- 1) It is naive to expect excellence - or even growth at all - in our spiritual lives without the preparation of _____.
- 2) We cannot expect to live in a spiritually mature manner simply by "_____ spiritual maturity" when the lights come on.

Jesus lived His life immersed in constant recurring _____.

The early church experienced the adventure they experienced because they were immersed in constant, recurring _____.

Teach Us to Pray

Luke 11:1 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." (NIV)

Matthew 6:9-13 "This, then, is how you should pray: "'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' (NIV)

Throughout church history this prayer has been used both verbatim and as an outline for categories in prayer.

1) _____

'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...

2) _____ with God's heart & purposes

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

It is unique to Christian prayer that we choose to align ourselves with God's mission and His coming Kingdom.

3) Personal _____

Give us today our daily bread.

4) _____ & forgiveness

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

5) _____ & resistance of evil

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

Paul's Prayers:

*Ephesians 1:17-23
Ephesians 3:14-21
Colossians 1:9-14*

Prayers from the Psalms:

*Psalms 42
Psalm 43
Psalm 91*