

Spiritual disciplines for a healthy church

4. Why do we pray?

John Percival

Introduction

- “Our” Father?

Praying together – its importance

- various times (Acts 3v1, 21v5)
- various occasions (Acts 1v14)
 - prayer for guidance (Acts 1v24)
 - when facing opposition (Acts 4v24, 29)
 - when facing a crisis (Acts 6v6, 12v12)
 - launching a new ministry (Acts 13v1-3, 14v23)
 - when saying farewell (Acts 20v36)

Praying together – its benefits

- personal encouragement
- church unity
- kingdom extension

Praying together – its practice

- at church
- one-to-one
- prayer meetings

Conclusion

Acts 4v23-31 (NIV)

²³ On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵ You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

““Why do the nations rage

and the peoples plot in vain?

²⁶ The kings of the earth rise up

and the rulers band together

against the Lord

and against his anointed one.’

²⁷ Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸ They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. ²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.