

POWER OF A PRAYING CHURCH
The Acts Series #2
July 26th, 2026

TEXT: Acts 1:1-3; 1:24-25

CONSIDER THIS: WOW! Then what happened? This question is the perfect response to Acts 1:1-3. Luke's first book was the Gospel of Luke, and then he wrote Acts to explain what happened after Jesus ascended back to Heaven (Acts 1:9-11). While this book is formally known as "The Acts of the Apostles", we could just as accurately title it **"The Power of a Praying Church."** If you really want your life to matter, if you want to make a true difference, **PRAY!!**

I. POWER FROM PRAYER OF SURRENDER (Acts 1:24-25)

A) Peter (1:15) and the Apostles knew a replacement was needed for Judas Iscariot. While they could have made the choice themselves, their desire was to know and follow God's will. They wanted to be like Jesus (Luke 22:41-42). So may it be for Grace Community Church.

"O Father, help us please! Guide us and grant to us Your wisdom, that we might know and do Your will."

NOTE: Casting lots was an **Old Testament** practice for Israel (Leviticus 16:8-10;

I Samuel 10:20-21) and it **NOT** continued in the **New Testament** church. The clearest path to knowing God's will is to know and obey Scripture.

B) The church has been given a mission, and every Christian is to have a ministry:

1. Make known the resurrected Christ (Acts 1:22; 2:32; 3:15, 26; 4:10)
2. Every Christian is to have a ministry in the church (Ephesians 4:11-12, 15-16)

"Father, what You call us (me) to do You will also enable us (me) to do by Your power and grace and for Your glory. Please grant us (me) the **power** to do our (my) part to build up the body of Christ, which is the church."

II. POWER FROM PRAYER OF RIGHT PRIORITIES

A) The description of the Christians in Acts 2:42, 46 reveals the importance of prayer in their lives, and the power of God that those prayers connected them to. Prayer wasn't a chore, it was an expression of joy and fellowship with God and His church (2:46-47). To understand salvation is to want to praise God.

Q: Is the activity described in Acts 2:42, 46 too extreme or unrealistic for Christians today?

A: There were some unique circumstances in Acts 2 based on the fact they were in the city of Jerusalem, in the midst of a miraculous revival just two months after the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. Our external **particulars** are different, but our internal **priorities** (what we place the most value on) should be the same.

Christian, Jesus died a horrible death for **you**. He rose from the dead for **you**. He constantly intercedes for **you**. He is preparing Heaven for **you**. This life is short and eternity is forever. The only opportunity you have to serve the church He died for is now. **PRAY!!**

B) Acts 3:1-10 is the account of the amazing miraculous healing of the man lame from birth. This was a pivotal moment in Israel's history and church history... but the key is in 3:1, where Peter and John were focused on **prayer**. Because prayer was a priority, they were ready to respond to the moment.

The best way to always be prepared for anything that might happen is to be committed to praying **every** day, **throughout** the day. This will connect you with the power of God.
(see Nehemiah 1:4-6,11; 2:1-5)

III. MONDAY?

One way to grow your prayer life is to try something new, such as:

1. A specialized fast with a particular prayer request
2. Find a Psalm that directly speaks to God and read it as a prayer. For example, Psalm 25. It doesn't have to be an entire psalm. Some psalms intermingle direct words to God with words about God. **Pray the words** that are addressed to God.
3. Choose a family or individual within Grace Community Church and spend a week praying for them. Perhaps let them know you are praying or ask for prayer requests.

THE POWER OF A PRAYING CHURCH

Do Your Part!
