

History of prayer in the New Testament

by Larry Smith — Pray Big Ministries 06/16/03

Throughout scripture we see God move in miraculous ways: seas and rivers parted, wombs opened, fortress walls crumbled, prison doors opened, cities saved from destruction, armies defeated, kingdoms overthrown, God's children saved from destruction, spoken and unspoken dreams of kings interpreted, three and a half years without rain, fire raining down from heaven, the sun frozen in the sky, men and children brought back from the dead, the blind given sight, the lame walking, lepers cured, lion's mouth's closed, and men's mouths opened to proclaim God's Word boldly and clearly.

All of these events and miracles were associated with the prayers of man. A glimpse of prayer in the life of Jesus and in the New Testament can show us just how important prayer is.

- Before Jesus was baptized by John what did He do? (Luke 3:21)
- What did Jesus do when He was in the wilderness for forty days? (Matthew 4:1)
- What other spiritual discipline is usually associated with fasting? (Psalm 35:13, Daniel 9:3)
- What happened after Jesus came out of the wilderness? (Matthew 4:2-11)
- The night before He chose His disciples, what was Jesus doing? (Luke 6:12)
- What was the one thing the disciples asked Jesus to teach them? (Luke 11:1)
- When Jesus sent the seventy out into the cities, what did He ask them to do first? (Luke 10:2)
- Throughout His ministry, how often do we see Jesus in prayer? (Matthew 14:23; 26:36; 41, Mark 6:46, Luke 6:12; 9:28; 22:45, John 17)
- What did Jesus say His house would be? (Matthew 21:13, Mark 11:17, Luke 19:46)
- What was Jesus doing in the garden of Gethsemane when he submitted His will to go to the cross? (Matthew 26-39)
- What did Jesus do when satan asked His permission to sift Peter like wheat? (Luke 22:31,32)
- What did the disciples do in the upper room? (Acts 1:12-16)
- What happened after the 120 prayed? (Acts 2:41)
- Besides devoting themselves to learning the word, fellowshiping, and the breaking of bread what other thing did the new believers devote themselves to? (Acts 2:42)
- What two things were the disciples (elders) to give attention to? (Acts 6:1-7)
- What evidence did the Lord give Ananias that Saul of Tarsus was now a believer? (Acts 9:8-18)
- What were the Christians doing while Peter was in prison awaiting execution? (Acts 12:4-24)
- In heaven, how will we worship Jesus? (Revelation 4:1-11; 5:5-14)
- Where are the prayers of the saints kept? (Revelation 5:8)
- Where is Jesus right now? (Mark 16:19, Luke 20:42; 22:69, Acts 2:32-35, Hebrews 1:8-13)
- What is Jesus doing at the right hand of the Father? (Hebrews 7:24-25)