

Acts # 14

“Together in Prayer”

Matthew 16:13-18; Acts 1:12-14

It’s easy to say what other people are saying just about anything or anyone but Jesus asks all of us what we have to say about Him, God’s Son?

Jesus made it personal and all of God’s Word must become personal to us if we desire to see Him as He is.

The ultra-religious Pharisees and Sadducees have rejected Jesus as God-man Messiah, discarding His deity and His Messiahship and then lowly fisherman Peter comes along and says: “You are the Christ, (Messiah in His humanity), You are the Son of the Living God (equal to the Father in His deity)” and there we have the doctrine of the Hypostatic Union in one verse, the God-man Messiah and Peter had the right answer when Israel’s finest Rabbis didn’t!

Jesus Christ is the Mountain and there is a sense in which each of us are Peters or Petros in that we are in union with Him, therefore we are a part of the Mountain but we are just a chip off the real block or Rock which is the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Church was founded on the God-Man, Jesus Christ and it was not founded upon deity, it was founded on the Hypostatic Union.

And what did the embryonic church of Jesus’ followers do after His ascension while they were waiting for the Holy Spirit’s arrival?

Jesus is not coming back on that day of His ascension, so the disciples might as well get down to business and start learning some of the things necessary for success in the Christian life so that they’ll know how to operate during His absence.

The Church Age is a period when Jesus Christ is absent from the earth, so everything that He wants us to know; we have in the Word of God, a.k.a. the mind of Christ.

These are our instructions also during His absence.

There are three categories of prayer received by God the Father, the only Recipient of prayer:

- 1) Prayer from our Royal High-Priest Jesus Christ, Who’s seated right now at the right hand of the Father where He offers constant intercession on our behalf, *Heb 7:25.*
- 2) Prayer from God the Holy Spirit in this age of the royal priesthood or royal family, *Rom 8:26-27.*
- 3) Prayer from male and female believer-priests in the Church Age, *Heb 4:16.*

SOME REASONS WHY OUR PRAYERS ARE NOT ANSWERED:

We’re not filled with the Holy Spirit or we have no faith-rest function from biblical truth in our souls, *Eph 6:18.*

Our motives are selfish or lustful, Jas 4:2-4.

We fail to respect God-ordained authority through lack of obedience, 1st Jn 3:21-22.

Noncompliance with the will of God, 1st Jn 5:14.

Pride in our hearts as a result of self-righteousness, Job 35:12-13.

Lack of domestic tranquility, 1st Pet 3:7.

Paul faced a situation in which he had no human capability to solve his problem; he was helpless.

Christ's power resting on Paul refers to the spiritual life provided by the Lord Jesus Christ and facilitated by God the Holy Spirit.

There is a reason for everything that happens to us.

Paul was not out of fellowship with God; his prayer was not answered to teach him the importance of handling suffering for blessing with God's grace problem-solving techniques.

We are not spiritual because we pray; we pray because we're spiritual; prayer is not the measure of the spiritual life; it's the result of the spiritual life.

Suffering is not our enemy except when we're under divine discipline; suffering is actually our friend when it's designed by God for our blessing

Paul knew this so he concluded that the Lord's answer of "My grace is sufficient or enough for you" is the only profitable solution; the human solution to take it away is really no solution at all.

In Acts, we have the privilege of being eyewitnesses of the results of a divine decision that led to the conception, birth, infancy and pediatric growth of this amazing body which now is still around in A.D. 2021.

To understand our part in this, we must know of the link between the ascended, seated Lord Jesus Christ, Who passed every test He faced while on earth and the Holy Spirit Whom He sent to all Church Age believers to create within them, His very own spiritual nature.