

Welcome To Open Bible Hour

Thank you for joining us on this Lord's Day!

Our desire is that you may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ as we pursue an in-depth study of the first 2 chapters of Acts.

If you have a prayer request, for which you would like us to pray, please fill out a prayer sheet at the back table and give to Lyle.

Our website: OpenBibleHour.net



“THE 4 PILLARS OF CHURCH LIFE”

PART 5

“Prayer”

January 29, 2012

Acts 2:41-42

41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

“Breaking of Bread”

Communion

Definition:

The remembrance of the death of Jesus Christ by the sharing of the cup and the bread by a group of believers in a local church.

5 views of Communion:

- 1. Roman Catholic View** - “**Transubstantiation**” is the belief that the bread and wine are miraculously changed into the actual body and blood of Christ. This belief holds that although the bread and wine keep their physical characteristics (they taste, feel, and look the same), God supernaturally changes them into Christ's actual body and blood when they are blessed by the Priest during the ceremony of the Mass.
- 2. Orthodox (Greek or Eastern) View** - Same as RC only they call it a “mystery”.
- 3. Lutheran View** - “**Consubstantiation**” Christ's body and blood are present “*in, with and under*” the forms of bread and wine.

4. Reformed/Presbyterian View - Christ is not present literally in the elements, but he is spiritually present.

5. Memorial View- The death of Christ is remembered by the bread and the cup which symbolizes His body and blood. The Passover meal in the O.T. remembered God's physical deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage. The Lord's Supper commemorates Jesus' spiritual deliverance of believers from the bondage and penalty of sin. Like the Passover, the Lord's Supper is a time of communal fellowship, remembrance, and personal reflection. We also believe that the bread and wine are symbols of Christ's body and blood. We do not believe that they turn into his actual body and blood or that he is present within the bread or wine. Nor do we believe that spiritual grace is "transferred" by eating the bread or drinking the wine. The bread symbolizes Christ's body that was sacrificed for us, as he became the perfect sacrificial Lamb. The cup symbolizes his blood that was shed for my sin. Together, the bread and cup signify his complete life - which he freely gave up for us.

Luke 22:19-20

19 And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in **remembrance** of Me."

20 And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

1 Cor. 11:23-26

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;

24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in **remembrance** of Me."

25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in **remembrance** of Me."

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

John 6:52-56

52 Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?"

53 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves.

54 "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

55 "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.

56 "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

John 6:35-51

35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.

36 "But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe.

37 "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.

38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

39 "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.

40 "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

41 Therefore the Jews were grumbling about Him, because He said, "I am the bread that came down out of heaven."

42 They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, 'I have come down out of heaven'?"

47 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.

48 "I am the bread of life.

49 "Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.

50 "This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.

51 "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh."

John 6:52-56

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“Those that attend Sunday morning love the church,

Those that attend Sunday night love the pastor,

and those that attend a midweek prayer service love the Lord!“

Luke 18:1

18 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,

Acts 4:24-31

24 And when they heard this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is You who MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM,

25 who by the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Your servant, said,

'WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE,
AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS?

26 'THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND,
AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER
AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.'

27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,

28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

29 "And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence,

30 while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus."

31 And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:24-31

A church must have the right perspective when it prays:

1. Cosmological Perspective

24 And when they heard this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is You who MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM,

- ***Who God is.***
- ***Who we are.***

2. Biblical Perspective

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- ***We have a God-given Source of Authority – His Word.***

3. Sovereignty Perspective

27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,

28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

- ***Nothing exists outside of God's Control.***

4. Mission Perspective

29 "And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence,

30 while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus."

- ***In spite of problems or a crises the focus is not on us but on the mission God has commanded us to accomplish.***

5. Empowered Perspective

31 And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

- ***God empowers a church that honors Him with the right perspectives in prayer.***

Prayer

1. Corporate church prayer is of utmost importance to the life of a church.
2. A church prayer meeting that brings people together to pray is not an option, it is a necessity.
3. The idea that corporate prayers are more likely to move the hand of God comes largely from a misinterpretation of Matt. 18:19,20.

Matt 18:15-20

15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

18 "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

19 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

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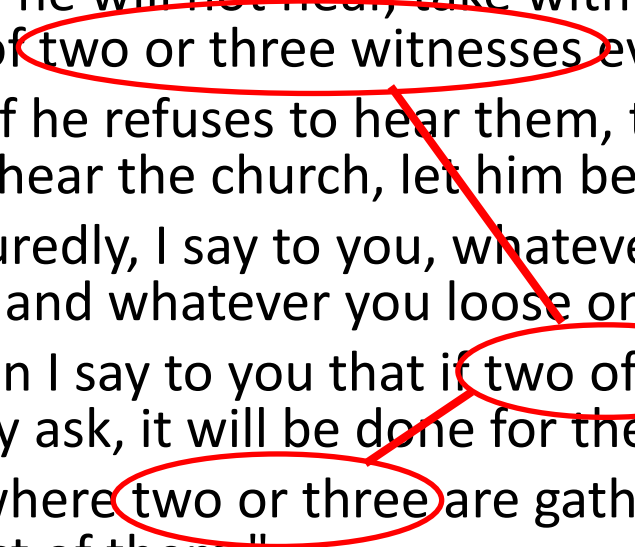
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4. Corporate prayer removes the individualistic assumption that Christianity is only about me and my relationship with God; and it makes us as individual Christians aware of this person who's sick, this person who's just had a baby, this person who's unemployed, this person who's just become a Christian, this person who has died, this missionary who is experiencing persecution, our President, our congress, our nation, our schools, churches, pastors, seminaries, other countries, the spread of the gospel, the growth of believers, the offense of sin, the wrath of God, salvation in Christ, and on and on. Participating in corporate prayer helps us discover that our lives as followers of Christ are tied up with one another's. It helps us discover how God cares about the Body of Christ as an entity. Its, "our church is praying for . . . " not just "this is what I am praying for". Its rare to hear the former. We have lost our corporate awareness and unity because we have lost our corporate prayer.
5. Neglecting corporate prayer turns us into Laodecians "who have need of nothing" and have Christ on the outside of the church.