



***“They all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer.” Acts 1:14***

Focused Living Ministries

While visiting his home church a missionary explained, "I was serving a hospital in Africa and traveled by bicycle every week through the jungle to get supplies. After purchasing them on one occasion I encountered a seriously injured man. So I

treated his injuries, told him about Jesus Christ, left him with friends and arrived home without incident. A week later I repeated my journey and checked in on the man I had treated. He cried as he told me that after I had helped him his friends followed me into the jungle where they knew I was going to camp overnight as they had planned to kill me in order to take the money and medicine. But they did not make their move because I was surrounded by 26 heavily armed guards. I laughed assuring him that I was all alone in the jungle campsite. But he insisted that they all had seen 26 guards and ran out of fear. At this point in the sermon one of the men in the congregation interrupted the missionary asking when all this happened. After disclosing the date and time the man continued, "At the exact time of your incident in Africa I was about to putt when I sensed a great urge to pray. The urging of God was so strong that I called other men from this church to meet and pray for you. Would the men who prayed with me that day stand up?" The congregation didn't care who they were as they were too busy counting how many stood. There were 26! **Have you ever sensed the Lord urging you to pray for someone? What did you do? Why is prayer so important to Jesus? What do the following verses teach about how ALL IN men pray? Describe your prayer life? How important was vibrant, focused, heartfelt prayer to the ALL IN men of Acts?** 1:14, 23-26

2:42-47

3:1

4:23-31

6:4-6

7:55-60

9:10-12

9:36-42

10:1-6, 9, 30-31

12:1-17

13:1-5

14:21-28

16:11-15

16:16-34

20:17-38

21:1-6

28:7-9



**NO PRAYER, NO POWER!** The Christian life is not about doing things for God, but rather arranging our life around what is important to Him and what's on His heart. How does fervent, humble, consistent prayer help bring our lives into alignment with what is important to God? Why is prayer that waits on God so powerful? Nothing makes a man more **ALL IN** than prayer. Why? (John 14:13-14; James 1:16-18; I Thess 5:17-18; Jer 32:16-20; Dan 6:10-27; Ex 16:8-14; II Kings 6:8-20; Luke 5:16) *“Pray as though everything depends on God, but work as though everything depends on you!”* St. Augustine

(Acts 1:4-5, 9-14; Is 40:31) Jesus commanded His men to **“wait”** on [peri (next) + meno (remain) = remain next to] God in prayer. Waiting is not **passively** doing nothing. It is **actively** putting aside our agenda so that we can draw close to and unite with God in what He is doing! Waiting (prayer) always precedes witness (proclamation). Do the math! In response to His command to wait these ALL IN men prayed for **10 days** (from His ascension on the 40<sup>th</sup> day after the resurrection until Pentecost on the 50<sup>th</sup> day), then Peter spoke for **10 minutes** (2:14-35) and **3000** folks received Christ as Savior (2:41). In our pride we pray for 10 secs, run programs for 10 days and little of eternal value happens (few come to Christ). What does it look like to “wait” on God in prayer? **P.U.S.H** = prayer until something happens! ‘Drive way’ prayer. Prayer flairs. Prayer by association. Prayer walks. Prayer cards.

**ASSIGNMENT** What practical prayer “commitment” will you make this week to help you grow to become and ALL IN prayer man?

**TAG TEAM DISCUSSION** Compared to the ALL IN men of Acts, describe your prayer life? How can you practically raise the temperature of prayer in your life?

**“It says here on your resume that you were created in God’s image. Very impressive!”**

