



INGman 2 *Focused Living*

Multiplying Your Life Through Prayer

A man once took four boots to the cobbler to repair the soles. The cobbler said it would take 8 nails per boot to reattach the soles at \$2.00 per nail for a total of \$64. The man complained of the outrageous price, so the cobbler offered a different arrangement, “OK, pay me 1 penny for the 1st nail, two for the 2nd, four for the 3rd, eight for the 4th, and so on.” The customer readily agreed as it seemed like a far better deal for his meager budget. When he came the next day to pick up his boots he was horrified to discover the power of multiplication and that he owed the cobbler over \$2 billion!

The Apostle Paul loved Jesus and was committed to multiplying his life for Christ no matter the cost (1:19-21). On his 2nd missionary journey (49 AD) at the age of 54, the Lord directed Paul and his TAG Team, (Silas, Timothy, Luke) to cross the Aegean Sea. Check out the map in the back of your Bible. The first town they came to was the Roman colony of Philippi. God used this team to begin one of the most successful and impactful churches in history. Philippi was the 1st church in Europe which grew so powerfully that we in the USA now enjoy a relationship with God because of Paul’s commitment to multiplying his life, gifts, talents, time, opportunities and relationships through prayer!

Acts 16:11-40 (Acts 16:13, 16, 25; Phil 1:4, 9-11) Nothing makes you an INGman (growing, maturing, transforming) more than prayer. Why did Paul insist that his team begin their church planting work in Philippi with prayer? What were some of the results of their prayer? Is prayer usually your first move or last resort? Why? Give an example of God multiplying your life for Christ through either your prayer or the prayers of others.

What 2-3 specific things will you commit to pray for daily that your life might be multiplied for God’s glory? What will remind you?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

(Acts 16:14-15; 25-33; Phil 1:3-4, 12-14; 4:22) God is the great multiplier and He will answer your prayer according to His will with results exponentially greater than anything we “*dare to ask or imagine*” (Ephesians 3:20). That’s why the cobbler illustration motivates us to pray and not “*lose heart*” (Luke 18:1) as we so often think that our prayers don’t really accomplish much. How did the Lord multiply Paul’s prayers and how far did their impact extend?

(Acts 16:16-24) Again, we see Paul and his TAG Team out for a prayer walk down by the river. What did it cost them to be INGmen of prayer used by God for multiplication?

(Acts 16:25) What was Paul’s attitude as God answered his prayers with adversity? Is there anything for which you have given up on prayer because of the cost (time, energy, \$) involved? Explain.

(Col 4:2-4; Eph 6:19-20) Paul challenged his TAG Team to pray often for boldness as it took a great deal of faith to live boldly for Christ in their culture. The price was often steep (2 Cor 11:23-28). Many of God’s men do not pray bold prayers of multiplication because the cost is too high. How would you honestly describe your present prayer life in terms of its boldness? Are you praying for peanuts or elephants?

(Acts 16:13) What was Paul on his way to do one Sabbath morning, and why is it the absolute key to multiplying your life for Christ with exponential living starting at home?

TAG TEAMS Napoleon once conquered an important island in the Mediterranean. As his generals were discussing their victory, a young officer came boldly before the emperor and asked, “*Give me this island as my own!*” To the amazement of the generals, Napoleon immediately granted him his request. “What made him worthy to receive this great island?” they complained. Napoleon responded, “I gave him the island **because he honored me with the magnitude of his request!**” With what great request will you honor the Lord each day this week?