

“A House Of Prayer”
Acts 2:41-42, 4:23-31
Sermon Series: “More Than A Building”

Introduction:

We are in an eternal, life and death struggle for the souls of people. Prayer is one of our primary weapons in this battle (Ephesians 6:12, 17-20), but it is easy to neglect it in favor of other things in the life of the church (Luke 19:45-46). [Give examples]

Main Idea: The church is not a physical building but a spiritual house of prayer.

Read Acts 2:41-42, give the background of chapters 3-4 and then read 4:23-31.

1. Conditions For Powerful Corporate Prayer

A. Corporate prayer is to be first priority and not last resort. (Acts 1:12-14)

[Example of Acts 12]

B. Corporate prayer is necessitated by ministering in a way that requires divine intervention.

C. Corporate prayer is effective when the church is united.

2. Convictions Behind Powerful/Corporate Prayer

A. God sovereignly rules over all to accomplish His intended ends (v. 24, 28).

B. God works through His people in time and space as the means to accomplish the ends (v. 27-28).

C. God speaks through and fulfills His Word so we can pray and act in faith based on the Word of God (v. 24-26).

3. The Content of Powerful Corporate Prayer (v. 29-30)

It was not self-centered, but it was:

A. God-centered

B. Gospel-centered

C. Others-centered

The request or the result was not deliverance from difficulties. Their heart and focus was the advancement of the gospel. They continued to face persecution and the gospel continued to advance.

4. The Consequences of Powerful Corporate Prayer

A. It results in being filled with the Holy Spirit

B. It results in speaking God's Word with boldness.

-Acts 1:8