



Sept. 25—Oct. 1, 2016
Text: Acts 1:4-5, 12-14; 2:42

SUMMARY OF SERMON: When Jesus ascended to heaven He left two foundations upon which His Church would be built – prayer and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Prayer is the focus this week and it continues to be foundational to the growth of Christ’s Church in the world. Prayer – individually and corporately – is communicating with our great triune God in a variety of expressions: praise, confession, petition, intercession, etc.

RELATED BIBLE PASSAGES FOR THE COMING WEEK [The Bible readings this week are about the value of prayer for God’s people in a variety of settings and formats.]

*Monday, Sept. 26 – **Matthew 6:5-15*** [In this segment of the “Sermon on the Mount” Jesus teaches about prayer. Included is what is commonly called “The Lord’s Prayer,” which serves as a helpful model for themes around which to build our prayer life.]

*Tuesday, Sept. 27 – **Luke 18:1-8*** [It is important in trying to understand Jesus’ teaching through parables not to get lost in the details but to grasp the main point. Luke helps us in this parable by pointing out, v.1, that Jesus encourages persistence in prayer.]

*Wednesday, Sept. 28 – **Psalms 143*** [Many of the psalms, like this one, are prayers, whether individual or communal. Note here the psalmist’s weaving together themes of need along with trust and expectation.]

*Thursday, Sept. 29 – **Colossians 4:2-14*** [Paul emphasizes prayer in general (v.2), intercessory prayer (vv.4-5) and persistent prayer (v.12). The word used in v. 2, “devote” is the same word used in Acts 2:42 which included the first Christians being devoted to prayer.]

*Friday, Sept. 30 – **Daniel 9:1-19*** [Daniel’s prayer on behalf of the Israelites is a prayer of repentance, confession, and petition. Daniel, although faithful to God and His commands, humbly identifies with guilty Israel and asks God for restoration.]

*Saturday, Oct. 1 – **Ephesians 6:10-20*** [This passage is popularly known as the “armor of God” passage. It is important to see that Paul concludes his list of the various parts of our ‘armor’ with advocating Spirit-led prayers for “all kinds of prayers.” The prayers of God’s people are expressed in numerous ways.]



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