

## Study Guide: The Pillars of the Church – The Power of Prayer

### Introduction

Prayer is foundational in the life of a believer and the church. The early church devoted themselves to prayer, and we are called to do the same. This study guide will help individuals and groups dive deeper into the importance of prayer, how to make it a priority, and how to apply the principles of persistent prayer in their daily lives.

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### Session 1: The Importance of Prayer

#### Scripture Reading:

- Acts 2:42 – *“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”*
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 – *“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.”*

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What does Acts 2:42 teach us about the early church’s commitment to prayer?
2. How would you define “praying without ceasing”? What does that look like in your life?
3. Why do you think prayer was included as one of the four pillars of the early church?

#### Application Challenge:

- Spend 10 minutes in focused prayer each day this week.
  - Journal any distractions or obstacles that arise and bring them before God in prayer.
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### Session 2: Making Prayer a Priority

#### Scripture Reading:

- Matthew 6:33 – *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”*
- Ephesians 5:20 – *“Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

#### Discussion Questions:

1. According to Matthew 6:33, what should be our first priority in life? How does this apply to prayer?
2. How can we develop a habit of giving thanks to God in all circumstances?
3. What are some practical steps you can take to make prayer a priority in your daily routine?

#### Application Challenge:

- Before checking social media or emails in the morning, pray and give thanks to God.
  - Set a daily alarm as a reminder to pray.
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### **Session 3: Persistent and Bold Prayer**

#### **Scripture Reading:**

- Luke 18:1 – *“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”*
- Philippians 4:6-7 – *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”*

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What does Luke 18:1 teach us about persistence in prayer?
2. How does prayer help combat anxiety, according to Philippians 4:6-7?
3. What are some situations in your life where you need to persist in prayer?

#### **Application Challenge:**

- Identify one specific need or situation where you need to be persistent in prayer.
  - Commit to praying over it daily for the next month.
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### **Session 4: Praying for All Things**

#### **Scripture Reading:**

- Ephesians 5:15-16 – *“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”*
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 – *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What does it mean to “redeem the time” in Ephesians 5:15-16? How does prayer help us do this?
2. How can we practically “pray about everything” in our daily lives?
3. What are some things you may not typically pray about that you should start bringing to God?

#### **Application Challenge:**

- Make a list of everything you are currently worried about or facing.
  - Take time to pray over each item on your list, submitting it to God.
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## Session 5: Becoming a House of Prayer

### Scripture Reading:

- Matthew 21:13 – *“My house shall be called a house of prayer.”*
- Acts 2:47 – *“Praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”*

### Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean for a church to be a “house of prayer”?
2. How does a strong prayer life impact a church’s growth and spiritual health?
3. What are some ways we can encourage corporate and personal prayer within our church community?

### Application Challenge:

- If you attend a church, commit to praying for your pastors, leaders, and church services each week.
  - If your church has regular prayer meeting times, find one that you can make a priority in your life to participate in.
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## Final Reflection

Prayer is not just a ritual—it is our lifeline to God. It must be our first priority, not our last resort. When we commit to always praying for all things, we align ourselves with God’s will and invite His power into our lives.

**Final Challenge:** Take one takeaway from each session and implement it in your life over the next five weeks. Keep a journal of how your prayer life grows and what changes you see as a result.

**Key Scripture to Memorize:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 – *“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.”*

Let’s build a culture of prayer that transforms lives and impacts the world around us!