

When God Turns Up



... it's because we were expectantly 'prayer-pared'

Acts 1:12-14

BBC Small group studies

The first disciple's prayer life was marked by unity and persistence. There can be little doubt that the grounds of this unity and persistence in prayer were the command and promise of Jesus. He had promised to send them the spirit soon (1:4-5,8). He had commanded them to wait for Him to come and then to begin their witness. We learn, therefore, that God's promises do not remove the need for prayer. On the contrary, it is only His promises which give us the warrant to pray and the confidence that He will hear and answer.

OPEN IT

1. Use one word to describe your prayer life right now...

DIG INTO IT

Read Acts 1:12-14

2. What did the first disciples do when they were together? (Read also Luke 24:53)

3. What happened in the lead up to these gatherings described in verses 12-14?

4. What does Luke tell us about the way the first disciples prayed?

5. Why do you think prayer seemed to be the major activity that they engaged in after they returned?

GET IT

5. Why do people stop praying?

6. What does it mean to be persistent in our prayers?

7. How can you guard against the temptation to give up praying when you do not see immediate results?

8. Why is it important to pray with other believers? Does it make a difference to God?

9. What factors prevent us from gathering together to pray?

10. What do you imagine God doing when you are praying?

11. What sort of prayers do you think God loves to hear?

12. How do your prayer habits need to change?

APPLY IT

13. What changes can you make in your daily routine that will enable you to pray persistently?

14. Are there others who you might gather with regularly to pray for each other, the church and its mission?

15. Take some time this week to read *one* of Jesus' promises to you as His follower. Pray that this promise would become more of a reality in your life.

Bibliography: 1) NT Lesson Maker, Navpress 1992. 2) NIV Serendipity Bible, Zondervan 1988. 3) Acts—Seeing the Spirit At Work, John Stott 1998 on Lessonworks. 4) John Stott, The Message of Acts, Study Guide IVP 1991