

**OPEN HEARTS, OPEN HEAVENS
BROKENNESS OVER...OUR SELF-WILL
Moving from Self-Will to a Prayerful
Surrender to God and Others**

October 11, 2009

SW504

INTRODUCTION

**I. SOME THINGS ARE MEANT TO BE SHARED—
INCLUDING PRAYER!**

In Your Bible:

Acts 1:14

Acts 2:42

Acts 4:23-24a

Acts 12:5,12

(Pages 1077,1079, 1081 & 1091 in the Pew Bible)

Prayer Passage	Individualistic Interpretative Lens of Modern Christianity	Community Interpretative Lens of the Early Church
<p>“I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.” (Ro. 15:30)</p>	<p>With the help of Christ and the Holy Spirit in my life, I need to pray hard for leaders who spread God’s word.</p>	<p>Because of Christ, we need to continually gather to pray for Paul with an agonizing passion that comes from the love of the Holy Spirit.</p>
<p>“...he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.” (2 Cor. 1:10b-11)</p>	<p>I need to pray for those who preach the Word. I should be thankful when God answers my prayers.</p>	<p>When we gather to pray for those who lead and preach, we can rejoice together when we see our prayers answered.</p>
<p>“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” (Eph. 6:18)</p>	<p>I need to learn to pray in many ways for many people as the Spirit fills my heart and helps me persevere in prayer.</p>	<p>We need to gather and persevere in all kinds of prayer for all kinds of people as we are led by the Holy Spirit.</p>
<p>“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” (Col. 4:2)</p>	<p>I need to dedicate myself to prayer with an alert mind and grateful heart.</p>	<p>We need to continually devote ourselves to pray together with alertness and gratitude.</p>
<p>“Pray without ceasing.” (1 Thess. 5:17, NASB)</p>	<p>I need to maintain an attitude of prayerfulness throughout my day.</p>	<p>We need to gather together in constant prayer in the church.</p>
<p>“Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.” (2 Thess. 3:1)</p>	<p>Because God’s Word has blessed my life, I need to pray for the success of those who preach it to others.</p>	<p>We saw the power of God’s Word in our midst and need to pray together for this same impact in other churches as it is preached.</p>

II. WHY SOME CHRISTIANS RARELY PRAY TOGETHER

A. A Culture of _____

B. A Fear of _____ in Public

C. A Misunderstanding of _____
About Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give **us** this day **our** daily bread.

12 And forgive **us our** trespasses,

As **we** forgive those who trespasses against us.

13 And do not lead **us** into temptation,

But deliver **us** from the evil one.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

III. WE NEED TO LET GOD BREAK OUR SELF-WILL SO THAT WE SURRENDER OURSELVES TO HIM AND TO PRAYING WITH ONE ANOTHER

Acts 4:31

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

IV. WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO SEE THIS HAPPEN IN YOUR LIFE AND IN OUR LIFE TOGETHER?

A. Right _____

Key Point:

Brokenness may involve grieving, mourning, sorrowing, weeping, lamenting, acknowledging to God that all is not right at the present time, but—when God is at work in Christ—from Broken Hearts come Open Hearts and from Open Hearts come Open Heavens!

John 16:20,23

I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but **your grief will turn to joy**...I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now, you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive and **your joy will be complete**.

B. Take the Right _____

A. B. Simpson

This is the only way we shall ever learn to pray, by just beginning to do it. And as the babbling child learns the art of speech by speaking, and the lark mounts up to the heights of the sky by beating its little wings again and again upon the air, so prayer will teach us how to pray; and the more we pray, the more shall we learn the mysteries, and the heights, and the depths of prayer!

CONCLUSION