

21-DAY FAST AND PRAY JANUARY 11, 2018

Our prayers have turned toward the church – our church. It is fitting that our prayers over our church would mirror those found of the early church. Let's continue to explore how they prayed.

Ignatius wrote this to the Ephesians at the turn of the first century.

"Let no one deceive himself. If anyone is not within the altar, he is deprived of the bread of God. For if the prayer of one or two possesses such power, how much more of the whole church! He, therefore, that does not assemble with the church, has even by this revealed his pride and condemned himself."

1. The New Testament Church prayed to God for boldness.

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel." (Ephesians 6:18, 19 NKJV)

"Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word." (Acts 4:29 NKJV)

2. The New Testament Church prayed to God for signs and wonders.

"And now Lord, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." (Acts 4:30 NKJV)

3. The New Testament Church prayed to God for wisdom.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him." (James 1:5)

4. The New Testament Church prayed for a knowledge of His will.

"And so, from the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding." (Colossians 1:9).

5. The New Testament Church called on God for the healing of unbelievers.

"It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery; and Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him healed him." (Acts 28:8)

6. The New Testament Church prayed that members would be mobilized for ministry.

"Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Luke 10:2 NKJV)

NOTE: If you don't do your part in ministry by sharing your unique gifts, then the rest of us get cheated. If I don't do my part in ministry, then you get cheated. Each of us need to think about it and embrace this concept and become mobilized – begin ministering. Prayer itself is ministry.