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PRAYING WITH THE APOSTLES

28 Days of Readings and Devotions
from the Book of Acts

By Samuel A. Burroughs, Sr.

Praying With the Apostles

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Prologue

Praying with The Apostles, is a guided reading through the book of Acts. Each reading concludes with points for reflection and suggested prayer themes. This guide is helpful as you read with a group. Each reflection point is excellent for reflection, further study, or talking points from your group discussion.

The readings encompass the entire book of the Acts of the Apostles and is designed to complete the book in 28 days.

During the next 28 days you will encounter the early church fresh from the Pentecost experience. You will reflect on the many challenges of the growing new community of believers. You will reflect on how the lessons of the early church and apostles impact the church today.

Day 1

Reading: Acts 1:1-26

Meditation

Reflect on the importance of waiting for the Holy Spirit and seeking God's guidance. Consider the nature of today's church. Is there an unwillingness to engage in the age-old spiritual discipline of giving extended time in prayer, worship, and solitude?

Prayer Focus

Ask God for patience and discernment in waiting for His timing and guidance in your life.

Notes

Day 2

R eading: Acts 2:1-47

Meditation

Contemplate the significance of the Day of Pentecost and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Understand that empowerment by the Spirit is not neutral. The Holy Spirit is poured out for the purpose of work.

Prayer Focus

Pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in your life and the lives of others. Pray for insight and energy for the purpose of your empowerment.

Notes

Day 3

Reading: Acts 3:1-26

Meditation

Think about the healing of the lame man and the opportunity for Peter to share the Gospel. Did you notice how the disciples encountered the lame man while going about their normal lives? What do you come across in your daily life that calls for your involvement?

Prayer Focus

Ask God for boldness and compassion to impact those around you. Pray for sensitivity so that you might be aware of the things in your daily life that need attention.

Notes

Day 4

R eading: Acts 4:1-37

Meditation

Reflect on the persecution faced by Peter and John and the unity of the early believers. Consider your life as a disciple of Jesus. Are you free to worship God without fear? If so, do think about and pray for believers around the world who suffer because of their faith?

Prayer Focus

Pray for strength and unity within the body of Christ, especially in the face of opposition. Thank Him for your freedoms and appreciate the gifts you have.

Notes

Day 5

R eading: Acts 5:1-42

Meditation

Ponder the seriousness of lying to the Holy Spirit and the fearless commitment of the apostles. Consider what it means to make and keep commitments.

Prayer Focus

Seek God's forgiveness for any falling short on commitments in your life, and ask for the courage to stand firm in your faith.

Notes

Day 6

Reading: Acts 6:1-15

Meditation

Give thought to the establishment of the first deacons and the importance of serving others. Notice how the effectiveness of the church heavily relies on the willingness of the disciples to serve.

Prayer Focus

Pray for a servant's heart and the ability to discern and meet the needs of those around you. Ask the Lord to show you where you are gifted to serve.

Notes

Day 7

Reading: Acts 7:1-60

Meditation

Reflect on Stephen's powerful defense and his martyrdom. Stephen is not one of the apostles, he is a deacon, yet his sermon is the longest recorded in scripture. This story reminds us that the heavy lifting of the gospel is not assigned to the pulpit alone.

Prayer Focus

Pray for the strength to remain steadfast in your faith, even in the face of opposition. Pray for courage to give an answer to them that ask a reason for the hope that is in you.

Notes

Day 8

Reading: Acts 8:1-40

Meditation

Meditate on the spread of the Gospel beyond Jerusalem and the conversion of the knowledge seeking Ethiopian eunuch. Again, notice how the disciples encountered individuals during their normal travels. Think about opportunities you may have missed while you are going about your day.

Prayer Focus

Pray that God would cause your life to intersect with those who are hungry and seeking. Pray that God would increase your awareness concerning those around you who are privately seeking.

Notes

Day 9

Reading: Acts 9:1-43

Meditation

This chapter covers the transformation of Saul (Paul) from a persecutor to a follower of Christ. Have ever considered Saul (Paul), a blood-thirsty zealot, was the unlikeliest of candidates?

Prayer Focus

Pray for the transformative power of God in your life and for those who seem far from God. Pray fervently for those who seem to be impossible cases.

Notes

Day 10

Reading: Acts 10:1-48

Meditation

Reflect on Peter's vision and consider how God had to challenge the obstacles of his preconceived notions and cultural biases. Take note that the Holy Spirit arranged the meeting between Peter and Cornelius. Are you ready for the encounters that God has arranged?

Prayer Focus

Seek God's perspective on the people around you. Ask Him to remove any personal or religious biases that may be an obstacle to a tender heart for the lost. Seek God's grace to be ready for those divine encounters.

Notes

Day 11

Reading: Acts 11:1-30

Meditation

Notice Peter's testimony to the brethren in Jerusalem. Observe how the power of God transcended their experiences and expectations. Can you detect that God's plans are so much bigger than we can imagine?

Prayer

Pray for a mighty move of God that disturbs your religious equilibrium. Ask God to increase your faith so that you might be a participant in His great work in the earth.

Notes

Day 12

Reading: Acts 12:1-25

Meditation

Have you thought about the circumstances behind Peter's arrest? Peter is arrested on the heels of the arrest and execution of James. Yet, the church prayed aggressively for Peter's deliverance in the shadow of James' death. The phrase, "without ceasing" means to stretch out the hands to grab something forcefully. Consider the prayers you must pray in shadow of undesirable outcomes.

Prayer Focus

Pray that God would increase your faith and fearlessness. Ask God for help so that your outlook won't be changed by previous negative experiences. Pray with expectation.

Notes

Day 13

Reading: Acts 13:1-32

Meditation

Reflect on the sending out of Paul and Barnabas on their missionary journey. Take note that Holy Spirit sets the church's priority for spreading the gospel. Do you see sharing the gospel as your priority or someone else's?

Prayer Focus

Surrender your priorities to God in prayer. Ask God to restore the joy of your salvation. Confess to God your personal ownership of the Great Commission and ask Him to ignite your passion for His kingdom.

Notes

Day 14

Reading: Acts 14:1-28

Meditation

Consider the challenges faced by Paul and Barnabas in their missionary work.

Prayer Focus

Pray for perseverance in the face of difficulties and for the strength to continue sharing the Gospel. Pray for true missionaries who are embedded in places around the world.

Notes

Day 15

Reading: Acts 15:1-42

Meditation

Reflect on the Jerusalem Council's decision regarding Gentile believers and the importance of grace in salvation. Note that a growing church is not without difficulties. The apostles responded to the challenges presented to them with sound doctrine. Note that they held the Gentiles accountable to the spirit of the law and did not encumber them with regulatory matters.

Prayer Focus

Thank God for His grace in your life and pray for a heart that extends grace to others. Pray for souls to be saved. Pray for church leaders who are biblically sound so that they might judge according to the truth of scripture and the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Notes

Day 16

Reading: Acts 16:1-40

Meditation

Ponder the conversion of Lydia, the Philippian jailer, and the determination of the apostles to worship in difficult circumstances. Notice that Paul and Silas never lost sight of their assignment.

Prayer Focus

Pray for a heart of worship that remains steadfast even in challenging situations. Pray that the Holy Spirit overwhelms you with the supremacy of your Kingdom assignment.

Notes

Day 17

Reading: Acts 17:1-34

Meditation

Consider Paul's approach in sharing the Gospel with different audiences. Did you notice that Paul's presentation in Athens included quotes from their philosophers? Reflect on the importance of being informed as followers of Jesus.

Prayer Focus

Thank God for His grace in your life and pray for a heart that extends grace to others. Pray that God would increase your opportunities learn.

Notes

Day 18

R eading: Acts 18:1-28

Meditation

Reflect on Paul's ministry in Corinth and the encouragement he received from God.

Prayer Focus

Pray for encouragement and perseverance in your own ministry, trusting in God's faithfulness.

Notes

Day 19

Reading: Acts 19:1-41

Meditation

Ponder the impact of Paul's boldness in ministry. In every encounter the Apostle acted with unwavering faith and focus. As you have observed Paul throughout the book of Acts, what about his lifestyle could explain this level of boldness? Did you determine that boldness comes from exposure to God's presence? Do you live a life of real devotion?

Prayer Focus

Pray for boldness. Pray for God consume you with passion for His mission.

Notes

Day 20

Reading: Acts 20:1-38

Meditation

Contemplate Paul's farewell to the Ephesian elders and his commitment to the work of the Lord. Take note of the emotion and deep affection they held one for another.

Prayer Focus

Pray for perseverance and commitment in your own service to God and His people. Pray for a bond of love and affection within your faith community. Pray to be a catalyst in your church.

Notes

Day 21

Reading: Acts 21:1-40

Meditation

Give thought to Paul's willingness to face persecution for the sake of the Gospel. Observe his willingness to be inconvenienced for the sake of God's purposes. Consider if you are only willing to do things for God that are convenient for you.

Prayer Focus

Pray for courage and steadfastness in the face of opposition, trusting in God's protection. Repent for only serving God on your terms.

Notes

Day 22

R eading: Acts 22:1-30

Meditation

Ponder Paul's defense before the Jerusalem crowd and the Roman authorities.

Prayer Focus

Pray for wisdom and courage in articulating your faith when faced with challenging circumstances.

Notes

Day 23

Reading: Acts 23:1-35

Meditation

The Lord provided divine protection for Paul during his time in custody. Think on how God protects His children from people of wicked intent. Call back to your mind a time when God preserved your life.

Prayer Focus

Pray for God's protection over your life and the lives of those who face persecution for their faith.

Notes

Day 24

R eading: Acts 24:1-27

Meditation

Notice Paul's defense before Governor Felix and his commitment to a clear conscience. Consider Paul's exemplary commitment to truth without consideration of personal harm.

Prayer Focus

Pray for integrity and a clear conscience in your own life, even in challenging situations.

Notes

Day 25

Reading: Acts 25:1-27

Meditation

Ponder Paul's trial before Festus and Agrippa and his desire for all to come to faith in Christ. Notice Paul creating opportunities to declare the Gospel of Jesus.

Prayer Focus

Pray for a heart that desires the salvation of others and for opportunities to share the Gospel.

Notes

Day 26

Reading: Acts 26:1-32

Meditation

Read Paul's defense before King Agrippa and Festus, emphasizing his personal encounter with Jesus. What is the story of your personal encounter with Jesus?

Prayer Focus

Pray for boldness in sharing your own testimony and the transformative power of encountering Christ.

Notes

Day 27

R eading: Acts 27:1-44

Meditation

Reflect on Paul's journey to Rome, his faith in God's promises, and his leadership in a crisis.

Prayer Focus

Pray for trust in God's promises and for the ability to lead with faith and wisdom in challenging circumstances.

Notes

Day 28

Reading: Acts 28:1-38

Meditation

Give thought to the conclusion of the book, with Paul preaching the Kingdom of God in Rome.

Prayer Focus

Pray for a bold and unwavering proclamation of the Kingdom of God in your own life and community.

Notes

About the Author

Samuel A. Burroughs is the pastor of the Emmanuel Temple Pentecostal Church in Boston, Massachusetts. He has over 20 years of ministry experience as a senior pastor and holds degrees in Music and Ministry Leadership. His primary ministry is husband to Merilyn Tyson Burroughs.