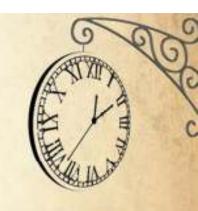




# 'Is it Any Fun?"

You do understand this relationship with Jesus thing is supposed to bring joy?



He did not come to add burdens but remove them

This journey with Jesus is supposed to not only be life changing but life fulfilling (John 10:10)

Gertrude was not trying to play music, she was trying to play notes on a page.

"What else is there to play?"

#### The Community of Believers

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Act 2:42-47



"It's in your heart, your head and your fingers you just don't trust yourself to play it."



# The Community of Believers Everything flowed together

That's because it's not compartmentalized

You can't draw a bright line between what was worship and what was fellowship, what was prayer time and what was study time

It's not a how they "did church"

The verses are full of action, not principals and theory

# A Stunning Result

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved

It does not say the number that joined the church
It does not say the number that attended some event
It does not say the number that wound up in the
offering plate

The only count they cared about was the number that that gave their life to a relationship with Jesus

#### It's About Action

We already looked at the action: devoted

If there is not commitment, then the rest of this is useless

If there is no time for the relationship, then there is no relationship

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Revelation 3:20





One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

**Luke 11:1** 





There is irony because they knew how to pray (Acts 3:1)

These were Jewish people they had watched prayer and prayed their entire life

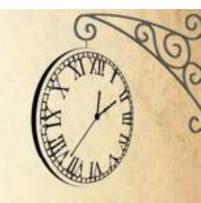


# Different



## Prayerful Reality

"Prayer should never be an event but a constant action."



The early church did not make time to pray 1 Thessalonians 5:17 – "Pray continually"

They Prayed Faithfully (Romans 12:12)

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

## Prayerful Reality

"Prayer should never be an event but a constant action."

It was spontaneous (Acts 12:12)

When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying.

When crisis came prayer first (Acts 4:23-24)

## Prayerful Reality

It was not just notes on a page

It was never just a side dish to what else they were doing

It was not a spectator sport that you watched but an action you took

Instead of pray for me, their terminology would have been pray with me Matthew 18:19-20

#### The Praying Church

They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

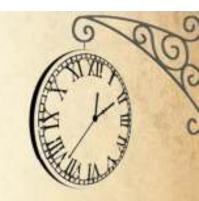
Acts 1:14





#### The Praying Church

\*When Jesus left them to build the church prayer was priority



There are 28 chapters in Acts and prayer, or praying is mentioned 34 times

Prayer was more important than "ministry" and equal in importance with "sharing the gospel"

"And we will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

Acts 6:4

### The Praying Church

The verse in Acts 1 is prior to the arrival of the Holy Spirit



This verse is before the first sermon and the 3000 saved

# Prayer Came First!

