

Message Two

**The Prayer Needed to Be One with the Lord
in His Move to Carry Out His Economy**

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:14; 6:4; 13:1-4

- I. The book of Acts shows that the apostles never initiated any work without prayer; whenever they wanted to do something, they stopped themselves by their prayer, giving God a way to come into them, to fill them up, and to saturate their entire being—1:14; 6:4; 13:1-4:**
 - A. In order to be one with the Lord in His work, we need to pray ourselves into God and pray God into us so that we are mingled with God—Matt. 6:6.
 - B. To pray means to stop ourselves from doing anything apart from the Lord so that He can do His work through us—cf. 14:22-23.
 - C. To pray means that we realize that we are nothing and can do nothing; prayer is the real denial of the self—Gal. 6:3; cf. Mark 9:28-29.
 - D. To pray by calling on the name of the Lord is to deny ourselves and to declare, “No longer I but Christ”—cf. Gal. 2:20a.

- II. We need to cooperate with the Lord through prayer to carry out His move, acting together with the acting God for the accomplishment of His economy as seen in the book of Acts:**
 - A. We need the prayer that brought in the outpouring of the Spirit—1:14; 2:1-4, 16-17a.
 - B. We need the prayer that shook the earth and empowered the disciples with the Holy Spirit for speaking the word with boldness—4:24-31.
 - C. We need to give ourselves continually and to continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word—6:4.
 - D. We need the prayer that brought Peter into a trance and brought a heavenly vision to him—10:9-16.
 - E. We need the prayer that opened the prison door for Peter—12:4-14.
 - F. We need the prayer that brought the five prophets and teachers into the Lord’s commission—13:1-4.
 - G. We need the prayer that brought in a great earthquake and shook the foundations of the prison—16:23-26.
 - H. We need the prayer that brought Paul into a trance and into the Lord’s speaking to him—22:17-21.

- III. “Now there were in Antioch, in the local church, prophets and teachers...And as they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for Me now Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. They then, having been sent out by the Holy Spirit...”—13:1-4:**
 - A. This was a great step taken by the Lord for the spread of the gospel of His kingdom to the Gentile world.

- B. It was begun from Antioch, a Gentile center in Syria, without the organizing of a mission, without the raising of funds, without human ordination, and without any human plan or method.
 - C. It was initiated by five faithful and seeking members of the Body of Christ, who gave the Head of the Body an opportunity through their ministering and fasting.
 - D. It was absolutely a move by the Spirit, in the Spirit, and with the Spirit through the coordination of the faithful and seeking members of the Body of Christ on the earth with the Head in the heavens:
 - 1. From Antioch the Lord's move on the earth for God's New Testament economy had an entirely new start.
 - 2. Although the flow of the Lord's move began from Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, it had a purified start by the Spirit at its turn in Antioch.
- IV. From this we can all see that we need to have a prayer life, for a prayer life always prepares the way for the Lord's move and opens the gate for Him to spread—10:9.**
- V. "These are they who follow the Lamb wherever He may go"—Rev 14:4.**

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