



Day Four September 15

On Sunday we will look at the power of prayer in the Early church. It's impossible to read the Book of Acts without noticing the importance and power of prayer. The early church made a priority of prayer. It's a good model for our church as well.

Today's Scripture Acts 12:1-5; 24

"Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church in order to mistreat them. And he had James the brother of John put to death with a sword. When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. Now it was during the days of Unleavened Bread. When he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out before the people. So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

But the word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied." (CSB)



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Special points of interest

- Create your own personal prayer list.
- Daily pray for a lost friend.
- Keep your eyes on the Kingdom and mission prayer.
- Daily ask God to "breathe" on FSBC.

Personal Prayer List*

1. Your One: _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

* Email Greg if you would like him to join you in praying for these needs.

Journal Prompt

Consider spending time everyday writing. Even if it's only for 3-5 minutes, you will find it a real blessing. Everyday during our time of prayer, there will be a Journal Prompt. One idea to help stir your mind and affec-

tions toward God.

Prompt:

What should I have done differently this week?

“Prayer is not monologue, but dialogue; God’s voice is its most essential part. Listening to God’s voice is the secret of the assurance that He will listen to mine.” – Andrew Murray

Pray for the Marma in India *

Population: 55,000

Christian: .39%

Primary Religion: Buddhism

Centuries ago, Bengali pirates and sailors terrorized communities of what is now Bangladesh. They were called maghs, or pirates. They settled down and became a tribe by the same name. The people themselves prefer to be called Marmas. The Marma are now valley farmers. In Marma society, farmland is community property. After one year's use, the field must be left fallow for a sufficient time to let the land recover. After the fallow period, anyone can work this field. They are folk Buddhists who believe in reincarnation but also in spirits and ghosts who can make life miserable.

Ministry Obstacles: Because He was crucified, Buddhists doubt that Jesus can save, because they interpret crucifixion as punishment for bad deeds (law of karma). Past experience has made the folk-Buddhists historically unreceptive to the gospel. Life-threatening experience with government and settlers tends to make them wary of outsiders, such as missionaries.

Prayer Focus:

There is a need for Bible translation and active Christian outreach by Marma believers. Pray for justice in the treatment of the Marmas. Pray for more evangelists, outreach materials and Bible translation in their language. Pray for churches that would plant more churches. May Christ show himself to be stronger than the spirit world that now binds them.

Pray for your "One"

We continue to pray for our "One." As you pray, ask God to bring others to your mind to pray for. Are there people in your circle of life that need Jesus?

Would you accept the 1@1 challenge?

Here is another prayer reminder. At 1:00 pm, pray for the salvation of the lost in Salina and around the world. Pray in a "large net" type of way and then pray in a single fish type of way. Ask God to do a powerful evangelistic work in our church and ask Him to use you in that process. Invest, Invite, Inquire.

Prayer Reminders:

- Prayer 9:38—Join Greg in praying every morning at 9:38 for workers in the harvest field.

- - 1@1—I saw this idea on the Texas Baptist website and really liked it. Join me everyday in praying for the lost in our area and around the world.

FSBC Prayer Focus

Let's continue praying for our Children's Ministry. As we build a children's ministry, our desire is to have a ministry that touches the hearts of children, to equip them with tools to remain in the faith, and to encourage them to be bold witnesses for Christ. Here are some of the highlights of our children's ministry.

1. **Awana**—We are around the 100 children mark with our Wednesday Night Ministry.
2. **Sunday School**
3. **Children's Church**—We are having between 25-35 children every Sunday.
4. **Children's Choir**—Begins on September 18th at 5:00 pm. They are in need of someone who can help creating props. Concert—Dec 4 @ 6:30 pm
5. **Nursery and Extended Session**

Prayer Requests:

- Pastor Jed
- Volunteers—Special thanks to everyone who volunteers
- Spiritual growth in our children
- Parents—as you know, parenting is a challenging work
- Trunk-or-Treat—October 30 at 3:00 pm

Bibliography

I'll give you a few titles of books you may want to read or add to your collection.

1. *Awe: Why it Matters For Everything wWe Think, Say, and Do* by Paul David Trip

Mission Focused Prayer

We prayerfully support an IMB missionary family, A & J in Tajikistan. This is a very difficult work. The primary religion is Muslim. They are missionaries in an unreached people group in Central Asia.

Prayer Requests:

1. The pipes that are laid for water to flow.
2. Open doors to the gospel
3. Believers to be renewed with purpose for life and missions.
4. For their children
5. For the new Christians they mentor
6. Strength and stamina in a difficult work.



My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers**

What to Renounce

We have renounced the hidden things of shame... — 2 Corinthians 4:2

Have you “renounced the hidden things of shame” in your life— the things that your sense of honor or pride will not allow to come into the light? You can easily hide them. Is there a thought in your heart about anyone that you would not like to be brought into the light? Then renounce it as soon as it comes to mind— renounce everything in its entirety until there is no hidden dishonesty or craftiness about you at all. Envy, jealousy, and strife don’t necessarily arise from your old nature of sin, but from the flesh which was used for these kinds of things in the past (see [Romans 6:19](#) and [1 Peter 4:1-3](#)). You must maintain continual watchfulness so that nothing arises in your life that would cause you shame. “...not walking in craftiness...” ([2 Corinthians 4:2](#)).

Utmost for His Highest (Con't)

This means not resorting to something simply to make your own point. This is a terrible trap. You know that God will allow you to work in only one way— the way of truth. Then be careful never to catch people through the other way— the way of deceit. If you act deceitfully, God's blight and ruin will be upon you. What may be craftiness for you, may not be for others— God has called you to a higher standard. Never dull your sense of being your utmost for His highest— your best for His glory. For you, doing certain things would mean craftiness coming into your life for a purpose other than what is the highest and best, and it would dull the motivation that God has given you. Many people have turned back because they are afraid to look at things from God's perspective. The greatest spiritual crisis comes when a person has to move a little farther on in his faith than the beliefs he has already accepted.

Acts 12:5 "So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was praying fervently to God for him."

Prayer Thoughts by Pastor Greg

James laid dead. Peter was kept in prison and the church was in crisis mode. Would the church survive? Notice what verse 5 teaches us? ***The church prayed!*** It was an urgent and fervent prayer. It was a focused pray made unto God.

Luke is giving us a picture of a crisis. Peter was kept in prison "BUT" the church was fervently praying to God. Do you see the key to power? Urgent and united prayer unto God.

It's always interesting to me. I believe the church would have prayed for James, too. But God allowed the enemies of the

church to martyr James. Look down into verse 24, "But the word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied." I'm not sure why Peter was released and James killed. But I do know the result was the **advancement of the Kingdom of God**. At the heart of the church and the outpouring of prayer, is the reality of the spread of the Kingdom of God. Our desire is for our pray to cause the Word of God to spread. Is FSBC focused on the growth of the Kingdom or the growth of other things?