

**New Mount Moriah AME Church**  
**Bible- Study, 23 April 2024**  
**Autopsy of a Deceased Church**  
**The Church Rarely Prayed Together**

**Introduction:** Prayer involves petition, confession, thanksgiving, praise, worship, meditation, and intercession. It may be corporate or individual. Tonight, our focus is corporate intercessory prayer, when believers unite to petition and intercede with fellow believers on behalf of the church or others.

Ronald Dunn states that prayer is always relevant. Whatever is a concern in the heart of man is a concern in the heart of God. Remember: If it is big enough to worry about, it is big enough to pray about!" "I discovered that prayer is not a religious exercise- it is a human necessity."

**Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing**

1. On page 64 of Autopsy of a Deceased Church, Thom Rainer asks, "Did the church pray together?" Take a moment to reflect on the member's response on page 65 and whether prayer was their primary focus or a by-product of their coming together.
2. According to Thom Rainer, what is the cause and effect of a church engaging in meaningful prayer?
3. The Jerusalem church **devoted** themselves to the Apostle's teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. The operative word is **devoted**, which means much intensity and deliberation. The early church was fervent, intense, and enthusiastic about prayer.
4. Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV) reads, "But without faith, it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." What role, if any, does that verse play in corporate prayer?

**Life application:**

1. Take a moment to reflect on the prayer life of your church. Is the Pastor and membership devoted to it? Or is it nothing more than a time/place to punch their spiritual time clock?
2. Why would a congregation and its Pastor think prayer is optional if Jesus and His disciples prayed?

**Questions for Prayerful Thought**

1. Most churches have times of prayer. What is the difference between those churches that have meaningful prayer and those churches that do not?
2. Why would a church's failure to engage in meaningful prayer lead to its demise?
3. What is the role and place of prayer in the early Jerusalem church in the context of Acts 2:41-47?
4. According to Romans 8:26-28, what role does the Holy Spirit play in prayer?

**Prayerful Commitment 9**

Lord, teach me to pray. Teach me to pray consistently. Teach me to be a leader in prayer and in my church. And teach me to be passionate and believe in prayer as a lifeblood of this church.