

## **Small Group Discussion Material for March 21, 2021** **Restarting starts with Revival of the Heart and Prayer**

So far, we have studied these principles from Ezra and Nehemiah and the teachings of Jesus. Today we want to look at the Church Application.

### **The Importance of Prayer in Churches**

#### 1. Prayer is a Kingdom Priority.

- Mat. 6:9 In Lord's Prayer – Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- Mat. 9:38 Pray earnestly to the Lord of Harvest to send out workers into the harvest.
- Acts 6:4-6 Deacons appointed so Apostles could devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word
- The Growth of the Kingdom of God in Acts was Holy Spirit Driven through the Church in Prayer!
- In Ephesians prayer for God to be glorified in the Kingdom work of the Church! (Eph. 1:15-21; 3:14-21)

#### 2. Prayer is a regular part of church fellowship.

- Acts 2:42 continued in Apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking bread and in prayer.
- Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.
- 1 Cor. 14:15 praying and singing were a regular part of their worship assemblies.

#### 3. Prayer for one another is a joyful responsibility.

- Eph. 6:18 "Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints."
- 1 Tim. 2:1-6 "Petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all those who are in authority..."
- Paul's prayer for the Philippian Church Phil. 1:3-11

#### 4. Prayer for leaders is needed and regular.

- Acts 6:1-7 the Deacons and Apostles
- Acts 12:12 For those imprisoned for preaching
- Acts 13:1-3 in appointing and sending out Missionaries
- Acts 14:23 in appointing Elders and Ministers (1 Tim. 4:14; 5:22 ; Titus 1:5)
- Acts 20:36-21:5 for the work of the Elders
- Eph. 6:19 Paul asking for prayers for his ministry

#### 5. Leaders' Prayers are needed and regular.

- Acts 13:1-3 Notice whole church in prayer with Elders leading
- Role of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Shepherds and Teachers to equip members for service (Eph 4:11) involved prayer
- 1 Tim. 2:8 Leaders lifting up holy hands in prayer
- James 5:13-18 an expected role of Elders in the church
  - Elders (presbyteros) father figures of the family or clan
  - Overseers or Bishops (episkopos) administrator, superintendent
  - Shepherds or Pastors (poimain) feed, protect, and care for the sheep
- Our Shepherd's Prayer at the close of our worship together.

**There must be a Revival of Prayer (from the Heart) in our Church in every aspect of our Restart!**

The Lord gives churches this warning:

“Then all the churches will know the Lord searches hearts and minds and will repay each according to their deeds.” Rev. 2:23

#### **Discussion Questions: Answer these and apply your answers to us.**

1. Why was prayer such an important part of the early Church?
2. What do you think prayer looked like in their worship assemblies?
3. Why do you think the church was encouraged to turn to the Elders for prayer?