

THE
WHY SHOULD I
SERIES

TAPE NUMBER SMX-480 MARCH 2, 2003

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“WHY SHOULD I PRAY?” – PART ONE

SERMON SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED KEYWORD:

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, WILL OF GOD, INTERCESSION

INTRODUCTION

to the text

Acts 2:41-47

A SERIES ON THE LIFE, MINISTRY AND INFLUENCE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

***Scriptural Reason's Why
You Should Take a Closer Look at Your Local Church***

Acts 2:41-47

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. ⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

It's Already in Gulf as I Speak.

It's a Weapon that the United States will be Unleashing within the first
3 minutes of the Invasion of Iraq!

It's Been in Testing for a couple years Here in the Southern California Desert

And When Aviation Week and Space Technology Research asked
Is it ready for the Theater?

Its creators said - "It's as Ready as I can Be"

And when asked 'why did you put it that way?'

They Replied by saying...

It's an Extremely Powerful Weapon; it's proven in testing to be Unpredictable by its very nature. **It's as dangerous, powerful and as sudden as a lightning strike -** because its **envelopes the target without warning,** **it's so invisible and powerful that we have been challenged by its own persona -** simply put, it's ghostly overwhelming!

It's called the "E-Bomb"

Electromagnetic Pulse Bomb

And it disables any attempt by the enemy to communicate among themselves, fries telephone lines, defuses radio waves in the atmosphere
And It electronically "melts" any computer when it strikes!

DOD

"Think of it as 'a collection of thunders storms stored in a glass bottle.
When the bottle breaks - those storms come out!"

The Department of Defense says that "in the opening moments of attack,
The Combatants will find themselves Overly Impressed"

**What Grabbed Me
About Their Statements were...**

It's an Extremely Powerful Weapon / It's as dangerous, powerful and as sudden as a lightning strike / envelopes the target without warning, / so invisible and powerful that we have been challenged by its own persona - / it's ghostly overwhelming! & The Combatant will find themselves Overly Impressed"

Sources:

Janes Defense, Aviation Week and Space Technology, Newsweek,

That very Much Reminds Me of the Power of Prayer!

So Powerful and beneficial was prayer in the life of the early church that it prayed all the time about everything!!!

Acts 2:42

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."

When the Church Found Itself
in Trouble
- It Prayed!

When the Church Found Itself
in Need
- It Prayed!

When the Church Found Itself
in Persecuted
- It Prayed!

When the Church Found Itself
Making a Difference in the World
- It Prayed Again!

A Great Example of This...

The Early Church as it was Growing, Lives were being Changed
And the world was under attack *by an invisible power*

Acts 12:1-16

Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. ² Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. ³ And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. ⁴ So when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover. ⁵ Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. ⁶ And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. ⁷ Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands. ⁸ Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me. ⁹ So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. ¹¹ And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people." ¹² So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying. ¹³ And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer. ¹⁴ When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate. ¹⁵ But they said to her, "You are beside yourself!" Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, "It is his angel." ¹⁶ Now Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.

Herein is the Power & Herein is the Problem

The Power? – Yes!

They Believed Enough in the act of prayer
to Gather for Prayer and They *did* Prayed

The Older Men of this Church, Lets
Make a plan to gather for prayer
(Men Of Prayer)
MOP

You Older Ladies,
gather and pray for the younger families
(Women Of Prayer)
WOP

Teen Prayer Meetings
Teens At Prayer
TAP

But Herein is the Problem

When God Answered their Prayer,
they were completely surprised and overwhelmed!

Why is Prayer so Often Misunderstood?

- Lack of Knowledge About it. - *Bible*
- Lack of a Need - *everything's O.K.*
- Lack of patience to stay at it - *zip perseverance*

Mark 11:24

"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

Are We Walking in His Will?

John 15:7

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

Prayer is something that nearly every human being,
at one time or another attempts to do or finds themselves in need of doing.

They may find themselves in a situation
that is clearly beyond them. They may see themselves in a place that they cannot get
themselves out of - and now that terrible moment has come...
it's time to call out to God!

Wrong Concept & Wrong Action

Prayer is a Divine Provision granted by The Almighty God to bring us to His Power and
Reason and Vantage Point - *for living life in victory!*

I Believe that Man's Desire to Make Prayer

is One of those Deep and Long Lingered Embers of a time when the first Man and Woman
communed and communicated with the LORD, the Eternal God.

We Will Take the Next Three Weeks
To Better Understanding Prayer and Do Prayer...
This Week Being Focused on
"The Foundations of Prayer"