

Prayer | a building block of renewal

JVI, Long Lake Friends Church, 05.31.20, 1

Texts, ESV: Acts 1.14; 2 Chronicles 7.14; Matthew 6.10

**i. Welcome! Early in this lockdown, I thought we might gather again on May 31st**

a May 31st is the *Day of Pentecost* this year, so I started planning

1 If you watched my online sermons, I did a series on OT Bible heroes

2 Each of these stories in the Hebrew Bible has a NT parallel with the HS

b Today is always an exciting day for me, my head swimming with Scriptures

1 I wanted to offer many building blocks for revival and renewal

2 I'll have to save all those for another day, Today just 1 building block

**ii. This building block of renewal is unique in Luke's writings: Luke-Acts**

a Luke talks more about *prayer* than any other Gospel writer (Matt, Mark, John)

b In Luke-Acts, *prayer* is directly linked to the HS's work from the beginning<sup>1</sup>

***Prayer | a building block of renewal, Acts 1.14***

**iii. They all pray "with one accord" or "with . . . single purpose" (Mounce)**

BLB *homothymadon*, ho-mo-thü-mä-do'n: "A unique Greek word, used 10 of its 12 New Testament occurrences in the Book of Acts, helps us understand the uniqueness of the Christian community. Homothymadon is a compound of two words meaning to 'rush along' and 'in unison'."<sup>2</sup>

a Rush along in unison, continuing in prayer, gaining momentum in prayer

b They start rushing along in prayer and it's a good thing

\* I'll tell you what it's not, then tell you what it is. Praying "with one accord" is not rushing around in fear. I know we're in challenging times, but we do not come together as Christians to yell "The sky is falling" and start running around like a bunch of chickens with our heads cut off. That's a bad kind of rushing around, and it's even a worse kind of prayer. Rushing along in unison, "with one accord," is like the prayer movement we joined at the beginning of all this. We joined *UNITE714.com*, literally a global prayer movement that has been praying for the eradication of the Coronavirus. We've been posting their prayers every day at 7:14 am and pm on our FB page. Their prayers are based on **2 Chronicles 7.14**. Now that's rushing along in unison.

c The NT Church starts praying "with one accord," rushing along in unison

d They experience true unity, God binds them together in prayer

\* This word *homothymadon* is related to a musical piece. All of the members of the

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<sup>1</sup> Joel B. Green, Jeannine K. Brown and Nicholas Perrin eds., *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2013), 690.

<sup>2</sup> Larry Pierce, "homothymadon," *Blue Letter Bible: The Outline of Biblical Usage*, 2020, <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strong=G3661&t=KJV>

orchestra rush along in unison, in perfect harmony. That's cute, but I want to share a different word picture. As I study the Word, I believe it's more like a BLITZ. In well-organized prayer, we have the ability to BLITZ the offensive line, take them out when they are least expecting it, and cause the opposing team to lose some crucial yards. So prayer should be more like a well-planned BLITZ. Let's storm the enemy's gates "with one accord" in prayer, rush along in unison, and take some territory.

**iv. They are all "devoting themselves to prayer" (Acts 1.14)**

a Meaning: moving forward in strong, steadfast, patient, & enduring ways

1 These are not 2 words, "devoting themselves" is 1 word in the Greek

2 It's not about "my prayer life" or "your quiet time," it's about our prayers

b We have personal time, but if we want *renewal*, we also pray together

c I remember in my lifetime when we used to have words to describe this

1 Silent Worship, Tarrying, Praying Through, Waiting on the Lord

2 We used to know what it meant to pray together for long periods of time

**v. Purpose of prayer - "What are they praying for?"**

a Some scholars believe the NT Church knows what they're praying for

b Others believe that the NT Church does not know what they're expecting

c I believe we're getting the cart before the horse with this question

1 We already have the whole book of Acts written out for us

2 But they have not yet turned the page to Acts 2, they're still in Acts 1

3 So my question is not "What are they praying for?"

d My question is "**Do we have to know what we're praying for?**"

\* Now don't jump off the deep end with my question. Some say that we don't have to know what we're praying for because God does what He wants anyway. In a way, they're saying that our prayers matter very little. Sounds a bit negative. Let me remind you what Jesus teaches us to pray, "*Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*" (Matthew 6.10). If our prayers matter very little, if God is going to do what He wants anyway, then why does Jesus teach us to pray this way?

e Let me remind you, your prayers are the catalyst for God's will on Earth

1 Your prayers activate the will of God in your life, family, church, and city

2 You don't have to know what you are praying for to receive it from God

3 Your prayers activate the will of God, you connect Heaven and Earth

***Prayer | a building block of renewal***

**Prayer**

**Benediction and Suggested ways to pray with us (05.31.20)**