

## Prayer

### *A New Prayer Aim (Various)*

4-18-10

### Scripture Reading – Acts 12:1-17

#### Introduction

- Last week - 09 prayer aim (the 30) reasons that God said no
  - Aim not Goal
  - Steve Treichler
  - Goal is something you can accomplish or achieve
  - Aim is something you ask God to accomplish or achieve
- Conclusion – God’s will was done and much good came from it.
  - Carolyn’s comments
- This week –
  - Why specific, all church, prayer aim(s) are good.
  - Propose a new one for 2010.
  - Conclude by beginning to pray for it together.

#### Why specific, all church, prayer aims are good.

- 1) Specific, all church, prayer aims are good because they’re BIBLICAL.

#### Acts 12:1-17 (ESV) – Our Scripture Reading

##### Acts 1:23-26 (ESV)

<sup>23</sup>And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup>*And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen* <sup>25</sup>*to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."* <sup>26</sup>And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

##### Acts 4:23-31 (ESV)

<sup>23</sup>When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. (not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus v. 18)... <sup>29</sup>And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word

with all boldness,<sup>30</sup> while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." <sup>31</sup> 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.

*\*\*Most like our aims in that it was broader and probably ongoing\*\**

2) Specific, all church, prayer aims are good because they UNIFY

a. God desires unity for His church.

i. **John 17:20-23 (ESV)**

<sup>20</sup> "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> *that they may all be one*, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given to them, *that they may be one even as we are one*, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become *perfectly one*, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

b. There are lots of things that can help unify a church.

- i. Meeting together (Sunday mornings)
- ii. Shared vision, mission, purpose, doctrine (membership)
- iii. Hard times (we've been through some)

c. But nothing unifies a church more than praying together.

- i. Knowing *your hearts* are on the same page
- ii. One reason why corporate prayer hour is so important
- iii. A specific, all church, prayer aim magnifies this
  1. 30 hours of prayer – focus on the 30

3) Specific, all church, prayer aims are good because they FOCUS.

- a. So many things to pray about where do you start?
- b. Lack of focus can be frustrating, overwhelming, and defeating
- c. The one thing I prayed most diligently for in 09 was the 30

4) Specific, all church, prayer aims are good because they CATALYZE.

- a. Prayer encourages individuals to take action
  - i. E-mails, Facebook, postcards, phone calls, visits, boldness, baptism invitation, etc.
- b. See others take action encourages you to take even more
  - i. Knowing others were taking action spurred me on.
    - 1. Shayna Preiner's e-mail, excitement, and prayer
- c. Seeing prayers answered is the ultimate catalyst
  - i. **Acts 4:31 (ESV)**  
<sup>31</sup> 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.*
  - ii. January 31<sup>st</sup> baptism made the 30 seem possible.

5) Specific, all church, prayer aims are good because they EMPOWER.

- a. Lots of people praying for the same thing increases *diligence*.
  - i. Not only TWE, but MOB, church plant prayer team, other SABA churches, and church planters as well.
- b. Knowing others are praying increases *fervency*.
  - i. Any time someone mentioned or prayed for the 30, especially passionately, I was spurred on to do the same.

6) Specific, all church, prayer aims are good because they GLORIFY.

- a. When one person sees their prayer answered God is glorified a little, when a whole church sees their prayer answered, God is glorified a lot.
  - i. Peter's escape from prison. What if it had been just Rhoda?
  - ii. What made the March 14<sup>th</sup> baptism so special

## A new prayer aim for 2010

EACH ONE TEACH ONE – Pray that everyone at TWE would help at least one other person to take *the next step* in their journey of faith.

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Three reasons EACH ONE TEACH ONE should be our 2010 prayer aim.

- 1) EACH ONE TEACH ONE is even more biblical than the 30.
  - a. Though it's not unbiblical to pray for those who are being ministered to, it's even more biblical to pray for those who are *doing the ministry*.
    - i. Being ministered to
      1. Unless you are born again you can neither see nor enter the Kingdom of God (John 3:3-5)
      2. **John 6:44 (ESV)**  
<sup>44</sup>No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws (lit. drags) him.
      3. We're all spiritually blind, spiritually dead, hard hearted, slaves of sin and captives of Satan, who are incapable of knowing, loving, and following God, unless God first does a work in us.
    - ii. Doing the ministry
      1. **Acts 4:23-31** – Boldness rather than favor
      2. **Colossians 4:2-4 (ESV)**  
<sup>2</sup>Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. <sup>3</sup>At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on

account of which I am in prison— <sup>4</sup>that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

**3. Ephesians 6:19-20 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup>and (pray) also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

b. The Great Commission goes beyond evangelism *to teaching*.

**i. Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)**

<sup>19</sup>...go and make disciples of all nations, *baptizing them* in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and *teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...*

ii. So does our vision - To bring glory to God and many to Jesus by raising up disciples who are so passionate about being new creations in Christ and ambassadors for Him that they joyfully and sacrificially dedicate their lives to representing Jesus well in all they say and in all they do, and *to teaching and encouraging others to do the same*, wherever God has planted them.

iii. The Bible emphasizes the importance of *all of us* teaching throughout.

1. Parents

**a. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup>"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>5</sup>You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup>And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your

house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

b. Gresham Machen quote (pp. 80-81 Biblical Eldership)

2. Those called and gifted to teach within the body  
a. **Ephesians 4:11-12 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

3. *Every member* of the body

a. **Ephesians 4:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, **we** are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

4. Both men

a. **2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses *entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

5. And women

a. **Titus 2:3-4 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> Older women ... are to teach what is good, <sup>4</sup> and so train the young women...

6. Both young

a. Jesus (Lk 2:47) and Timothy (2 Tim 3:15)

7. And old
  - a. Moses (Dt), Solomon (Ecc), Paul (2 Tim), John (Rev)
  
8. Both new believers
  - a. **Acts 8:39 (ESV)**  
<sup>39</sup> And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and *went on his way rejoicing.*
  
9. And even pre-believers
  - a. **John 4:28-42 (ESV)**  
<sup>28</sup> So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, <sup>29</sup> *"Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"* <sup>30</sup> *They went out of the town and were coming to him...* <sup>39</sup> *Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did."* <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

- 2) EACH ONE TEACH ONE is the most effective and ultimately the most efficient form of instruction.
- o Secular – after school help
  - o Spiritual - meeting Arthur
  - o One on one discipleship verses even one on two
  - o Efficient - from 70 to 144,000 in 11 years

3) EACH ONE TEACH ONE is KEY to growing in Christ yourself.

a. If you want to learn something, teach it!

How should we teach?

**2 Timothy 2:24-26 (ESV)**

<sup>24</sup> And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, <sup>25</sup> correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup> and they may escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

**Let's start praying that EACH ONE WOULD TEACH ONE today!**