The background of the slide consists of several concentric circles in various shades of blue, creating a tunnel-like or ripple effect. The circles are centered on the text.

the book of **ACTS**

The account of the growth of the Church

Acts 2:42-47

The growth of the Church:

Acts 1:15 In those days Peter stood up among the believers... a group numbering *about a 120*

Acts 2:41 (following Peter's speech) Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about *three thousand were added* to their number that day.

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together & had everything in common.

⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

devoted themselves to:

1. apostles' teaching
2. fellowship
3. breaking of bread
4. prayer

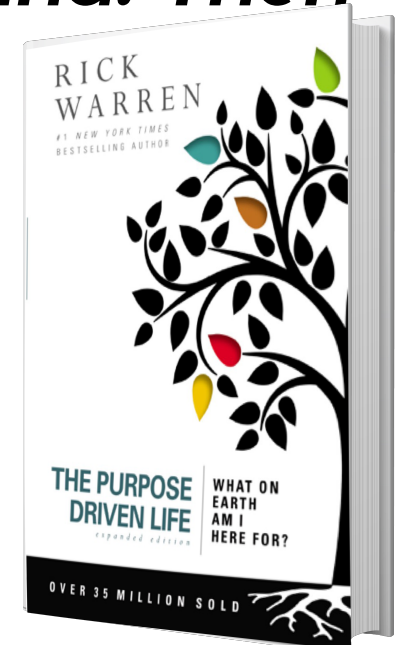


Apostles' Teaching

The early church devoted themselves to the continued study of the scriptures (the Old Testament) with Jesus being the new lens that they see everything through!

What is your view on life? To fulfill the purpose God made you for, you will have to challenge the conventional wisdom of the world and replace it with the biblical view of life. The Bible says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren page 42



Apostles' Teaching

Psalm 1:1–3 Blessed is the one
whose delight is in the law of
the Lord, and who meditates on
his law day and night...
whatever they do prospers.

Apostles' Teaching

Joshua 1:7-8 Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. .Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Fellowship

*A new community has formed!
NOT based on race, sex, social
or economic status. The
common bond is a commitment
to following Jesus' way. They
met together and took care of
each other.*

Fellowship

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Breaking of Bread

This was a radical new way of living! In their world relationships were defined by ethnicity and social structures, who you associated with said something about you and your values. Sharing a meal was a way of saying you are invited into my life! Breaking of Bread (communion) was also a way of remembering and giving thanks together for the life Jesus gave them.

Prayer

Luke 5:16 Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Prayer

If prayer was important to Jesus, how can it not be essential for us to practice? Reading through the account of the early church it's not difficult to see how much they relied on it.

Acts 4:24; 4:31; 6:4; 6:6; 7:59; 8:15; 9:40; 10:2; 10:3; 10:9;
13:3; 14:23; 16:13; 16:16, 20:36; 21:5; 26:29; 27:29; 28:8

“As it is the business of tailors to make clothes, and the business of cobblers to mend shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray!”



Martin Luther

Nov. 10, 1483 - Feb. 18, 1546

*Luther taught the cultivation of prayer as a **habit through regular discipline**. He proposes praying twice daily. "It's a good thing to let Prayer be **the first** business of the morning **and the last** at night. Guard yourselves against false, deluding ideas which tell you, "wait a little while. I will pray in an hour; first I must attend to this or to that."*

-Tim Keller Prayer page 89
from (Luther "A Simple Way To Pray" page 193)

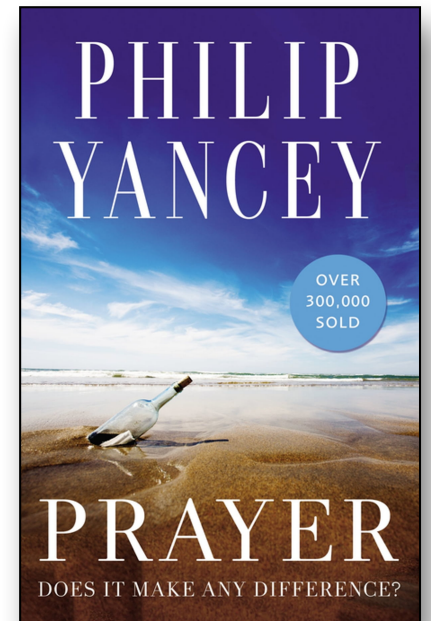


Martin Luther

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Prayer invites us to rest in the fact that God is in control and the world's problems are ultimately God's, not ours. If I spend enough time with God, I will inevitably begin to look at the world with a point of view that more resembles God's own.

Philip Yancey, "Prayer", page 210



Sometimes I thank God for unanswered
prayers

Remember when you're talkin' to the
man upstairs

That just because he doesn't answer
doesn't mean he don't care

Some of God's greatest
gifts are unanswered
prayers

Garth Brooks - Unanswered Prayers (1990 album "No Fences")



Result?

-Happy Hearts! (joy)

-Thanked God!

-God added to their number daily!

communion

