

The First Church, Part 5:  
“They Constantly Prayed Together”  
**Acts 2:37-42**

**I. God described His house as a “house of prayer”.**

(Exodus 19:3-6; Isaiah 56:6-8; Matthew 21:12-13; 1 Peter 2:9-10)

**II. God dwells (inhabits) in His people.**

(1 Corinthians 6:18-20)

**III. God’s people should be characterized as a people of prayer.**

(Romans 12:10-12; Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

**Scripture References and Notes**

**continued steadfastly** [προσκαρτερέω (proskartereó)]

- I persist, persevere in, continue steadfast in; I wait upon.
- (from *prós*, "towards, interactively *with*" and *karteréō*, "show steadfast strength," derived from *krátos*, "prevailing strength")
- properly, to consistently showing strength which *prevails* (in spite of difficulties); to *endure* (remain firm), *staying* in a *fixed direction*.
- [*proskartereó* means "to continue to do something with intense effort, with the possible implication of despite difficulty – 'to devote oneself to, to keep on, to persist in'" (*L & N*, 1, 68.68).]

Philippians 1:27-30 (NASB)

<sup>27</sup> Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind **striving together for the faith of the gospel**, <sup>28</sup> and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. <sup>29</sup> For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, <sup>30</sup> having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

**striving together** [ἀθλέω (athleó)]

- I engage, compete, in an (athletic) contest.
- I compete together with others, cooperate vigorously with.

Matthew 21:12-13

<sup>12</sup> Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. <sup>13</sup> And He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’ ”

Isaiah 56:6-8

<sup>6</sup> “Also the sons of the foreigner Who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, And to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants— Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant—  
<sup>7</sup> Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices *Will be* accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.” <sup>8</sup> The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, “Yet I will gather to him *Others* besides those who are gathered to him.”

Exodus 19:3-6

<sup>3</sup> And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: <sup>4</sup> ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. <sup>5</sup> Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. <sup>6</sup> And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

1 Peter 2:9-10

<sup>9</sup> But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup> who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

<sup>18</sup> Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Ephesians 1:13-14

<sup>13</sup> In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Colossians 4:2

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

Romans 12:10-12

<sup>10</sup> *Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; <sup>11</sup> not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; <sup>12</sup> rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer...

\*Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are from the New King James Version.

\*Bolded Scripture references are not in the bulletin notes, but are available in the full notes on the church website. You may access these at <https://www.firstbaptistcp.com/sermon-archive/>.