

Ten Days

ACTS: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Power · Week 3 · Acts 1:12-14 · October 18, 2026

A Prayer Meeting, Not a Planning Meeting

Jesus handed eleven ordinary people the biggest assignment in history: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth. No budget. No building. No brand.

A modern team would spend the first ten days on a logo, a launch plan and a pitch deck. Here's what the first church did with its first ten days:

Acts 1:14 "They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers."

No logo. No deck. A prayer meeting in a borrowed upstairs room. And it worked: 3,000 people added at Pentecost (2:41).

The church that changed the world started as a prayer meeting, not a planning meeting.

"One bold prayer can accomplish more than a thousand well-laid plans." Mark Batterson

Ten days between the promise and the power. Jesus ascended forty days after the resurrection (1:3). Pentecost came fifty days after Passover. They filled the ten days in between with prayer.

1. The Gap: Every Promise Has a Waiting Room

What you do between the promise and the power determines what you carry when it comes.

At an airport gate, everyone has a boarding pass. Some people pace, some complain, some scroll. A few charge their phones, and they're the ones with power when they land. **The disciples were at the gate, and they plugged in.**

They prayed for what was already promised. Jesus had already guaranteed the Spirit (1:4-5, 1:8). They didn't pray because God was reluctant. They prayed because the promise was certain.

- **Luke 3:21-22:** the Spirit came on Jesus *while he was praying*.
- **Luke 11:13:** the Father gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask.
- **Acts 1:14 to 2:1:** the church prays, and the Spirit comes.
- **Daniel 9:2-3:** Daniel read that the exile was almost over. He didn't pack. He prayed.

Prayer is not talking God into something. It's lining you up for something He already said.

"Change your prayer approach from as soon as possible to as long as it takes." Mark Batterson

What has God spoken over your life that hasn't landed yet? What are you doing at the gate?

2. The Choice: They Could Have Devoted Themselves to Anything

You will always be devoted to something. The only question is whether it's the thing that carries power.

The word is *proskartereō*: to stick with it, to stay at your post. Mark 3:9 uses it for a boat kept *ready* for Jesus. Devotion to prayer keeps your life tied up at the shore, ready for the moment Jesus moves.

It's the DNA of the early church: devoted to prayer (1:14), to teaching, fellowship, the table and prayer (2:42), to meeting together (2:46), to prayer and the Word (6:4).

What else they could have devoted themselves to:

1. **Grief.** Jesus just left. Again.
2. **Guilt.** Peter denied Him. They all ran.
3. **Fear.** About forty days earlier they were behind locked doors (John 20:19).
4. **Speculation.** "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom?" (1:6)
5. **Strategy.** They'd just been handed the whole world.
6. **Structure.** They do fill Judas' spot, but only after they pray (1:24).

You can't organize what God hasn't ignited.

"If your plans aren't birthed in prayer and bathed in prayer, they won't succeed." Mark Batterson

Your screen time report doesn't tell you what you believe. It tells you what you're devoted to.

What you're devoted to will decide what you're filled with.

3. The Room: Prayer Puts Unlikely People on the Same Floor

Unity was not the goal of the prayer meeting. It was the byproduct.

"One accord" is *homothumadon*: *homo* (same) + *thumos* (passion). Same passion. One heartbeat. Ten of its eleven New Testament uses are in Acts.

Look who's in the room:

- **Matthew and Simon the Zealot.** A tax collector for Rome and a man who wanted Rome overthrown, praying side by side.
- **The women.** The ones who funded Jesus' ministry (Luke 8:1-3), stayed at the cross (Luke 23:49) and first saw the empty tomb (Luke 24:1-10).
- **Mary, the mother of Jesus.** The last time she's named in the Bible, she's in a prayer meeting.

- **His brothers.** They didn't believe in Him (John 7:5). Now they're praying in His name. James will lead the Jerusalem church and write, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).

Tune a hundred pianos to the same tuning fork, and they're in tune with each other (A.W. Tozer). They all turned toward the same Lord, and in doing that, they turned toward each other.

You don't get one accord by agreeing with each other. You get one accord by agreeing with God together.

Prayer doesn't just change outcomes. It changes who's sitting next to you.

It's hard to stay offended at someone you've prayed with.

4. The Pattern: Every Move of God in Acts Is Born in Prayer

Acts 1:14 isn't a one-time event. It's the blueprint for the whole book.

Pentecost didn't interrupt their strategy session. It interrupted their prayer meeting.

Text	Who's praying	What God does next
Acts 1:14; 2:1-4	120 in the upper room	The Spirit falls; 3,000 saved
Acts 3:1-8	Peter and John at the hour of prayer	A man lame from birth walks
Acts 4:24-31	The church under threat	The building shakes; they speak boldly
Acts 9:11	Saul, blinded	The church's enemy becomes its missionary
Acts 10	Cornelius, then Peter	The gospel reaches the Gentiles
Acts 12:5-12	The church, all night	An angel walks Peter out of prison
Acts 13:2-3	Leaders at Antioch	Paul and Barnabas sent out
Acts 16:25-34	Paul and Silas at midnight	An earthquake; a jailer's family saved

In Acts 12, Peter was asleep in his cell (12:6). He walked out on the prayers of a church that refused to stop.

"Miracles are the by-product of prayers that were prayed by you or for you." Mark Batterson

The pattern kept going: the Moravian prayer meeting that ran for a century (1727), the Haystack Prayer Meeting (1806), the Fulton Street noon prayer revival (1857).

"Prayer is the inheritance we receive and the legacy we leave." Mark Batterson

Before the church had a building, a budget or a brand, it had a prayer meeting. Prayer isn't the warm-up for the work. Prayer is the work.

Build Your Upper Room

The disciples didn't just believe in prayer. They had a place, a time, a promise and a people. **Devotion needs a shape.**

1. **A place.** They went to a specific room (1:13). Pick yours: a chair, a closet, your car (Matthew 6:6).
2. **A time.** Devoted means scheduled. Peter and John kept the hour of prayer (3:1).
3. **A promise.** Write down one promise from Scripture and pray it back to God.
4. **A partner.** Pick one person to pray *with*, not just *for*.

If prayer doesn't have a time and a place, it'll never have a priority.

"Bold prayers honor God, and God honors bold prayers." Mark Batterson

The Ten-Day Challenge

Ten days. Same time, same place, at least 10 minutes a day. Read one prayer moment from Acts and pray its prayer.

"100 percent of the prayers I don't pray won't get answered." Mark Batterson

Day	Read	Pray
1	Acts 1:12-14	"Lord, I give you the first place in my day."
2	Acts 1:4-8	For the promise God has spoken over you
3	Acts 2:1-4	To be filled with the Holy Spirit
4	Acts 2:42-47	For your church family to be in one accord
5	Acts 3:1-10	For someone who needs healing
6	Acts 4:23-31	For boldness to share your faith
7	Acts 9:1-19	For the "Saul" in your life who seems far from God
8	Acts 12:1-17	For someone who feels trapped
9	Acts 13:1-3	For God to send leaders and plant churches
10	Acts 16:25-34	Praise in the middle of what hasn't changed yet

My upper room (place): _____

My time: _____

The promise I'm standing on: _____

My prayer partner: _____

Monday Move

Start Day 1 tomorrow. Go to your upper room at your time, read Acts 1:12-14 and pray: **"Lord, I give you the first place in my day."** Then text your prayer partner and set a time to pray together this week.

At the end of the ten days, join us for **The Upper Room**, a night of the whole church praying in one accord.

The fire didn't fall on the qualified. It fell on the ones who stayed in the room.

Reflect and Discuss

1. What promise has God spoken over your life that hasn't landed yet? What do you tend to do in the "gate area"?
2. Of grief, guilt, fear, speculation, strategy and structure, which competes most with prayer in your life?
3. If heaven sent you a weekly prayer report, what would it say? What would you want it to say?
4. Who is the most unlikely person you've prayed with? How did praying together change the relationship?
5. Look at the Acts prayer chart. Which story do you most need God to repeat in your life right now?
6. Whose prayers are you living in the answers to? What do you want the next generation to inherit from your prayers?
7. What would make the Ten-Day Challenge hard for you, and who can help you finish it?

Pray together: Share one promise each person is standing on, then pray those promises back to God out loud for one another.