

*Life-Giving Churches Series #3*

*Life-Giving Churches are  
Devoted to Prayer*

*Acts 2:42; 4:23-35*

**Sunday, January 20, 2008**

*Treasuring Christ... Loving People...*

# *Life-Giving Churches are devoted to-*

## *1) 'Breaking of bread'*

*Remember Jesus!*

*\*Spirit-filled*

*\*Bold-witnessers*

*\*In-community*

*\*God-channels*

## *2) 'Apostles teaching'*

*Rejoice in Jesus!*

*\*Read, Listen to & Obey God's Word*

*\*Receive/Rejoice in Expository Exultation*

## *3) 'Prayer'*

*Rely on Jesus!*

*My Goal:*

*What is at stake?*

# *Answer Three Questions...*

*Acts 2:42 '...devoted to prayer...'*

- 1. What is being devoted to prayer?*
- 2. Why be devoted to prayer?*
- 3. How does being devoted to prayer direct you concerning Abortion?*

# *Being devoted to prayer is...*

*1. Our continual response of expressing our helplessness & joyful dependence on the Lord to meet our needs.*

*-Continual response...*

*-Expressing our helplessness...*

*-Joyful dependence on the Lord...*

*-To meet our needs...*

*Jesus I Need You!*

# *Being devoted to prayer is...*

*2. Our passionate partnering with the Lord in intimate communion so the Spirit can transform us.*

*-Passionate...*

*-Partnering with the Lord...*

*-Intimate communion...*

*-Spirit can transform us...*

*Jesus I Love You!*

# *Being devoted to prayer is...*

*3. Our confident surrendering to the Lord,  
NOT twisting His arm, but delighting  
to ASK in Jesus' name.*

*-Confident surrendering...*

*-NOT twisting...*

*-But delighting to ASK...*

*-In Jesus' name...*

*Jesus I Yield to You!*

# *Being devoted to prayer is NOT...*

'24/7'

Meal & Bed time

'Hail-Mary'

# *Being devoted to prayer is...*

N\_\_\_\_\_

*Acts 2:42, 1:14; 6:4*

*Mark 1:35; Luke 11:1-13*

D\_\_\_\_\_

*Rom. 12:12; Col. 4:2*

God-E\_\_\_\_\_

*John 16:24; Heb. 4:16*

# Devoted to Prayer... never F.A.D.E.S.

**F** Free (heart) & Formed (God's Word)

*What to pray?*

**A** Alone (yourself) & Assembled (with others)

*Who to pray with?*

**D** Desperate (burdens) & Delighted (God's love)

*Why to pray?*

**E** Explosive (shorter) & Extended (longer)

*How long to pray?*

**S** Spontaneous (NOW) & Scheduled (planned)

*When to pray?*

# *Why be devoted to prayer?*

- 1. Believers devoted to prayer are sensitive & submissive to the Spirit (Acts 1-2), Who uses them as 'God-channels' & 'Christ-witnesses' BECAUSES they are HIS! (Acts 3:1-4:22)*
- 2. 'God-channels' & 'Christ-witnesses' are often 'forced' to be further devoted to prayer—often corporately... BECAUSES it is often life or death! (Acts 4:23-35)*

# *Why be devoted to prayer?*

*1. I want to be a \_\_\_\_\_.*

*The Spirit empowers 'devoted prayers'  
to be 'God-channels.'*

*-D \_\_\_\_\_ vessels                      Acts 1:13-14*

*-Spirit-f \_\_\_\_\_ vessels                      Acts 2:1-4*

*-U \_\_\_\_\_ vessels                      Acts 3:1-4*

*-Spirit-e \_\_\_\_\_ vessels                      Acts 3:5-7*

*-Crowd-s \_\_\_\_\_ vessels                      Acts 3:8-10*

# *Why be devoted to prayer?*

*2. I want to be a \_\_\_\_\_.*

*The Spirit empowers 'devoted prayers' to be 'Christ-witnesses.'*

**Peter points the people to...** *Acts 3:11-29*

*Leaders: A\_\_\_\_, A\_\_\_\_, A\_\_\_\_* *Acts 4:1-7*

**Peter points the leaders to...** *Acts 4:8-12*

*Leaders: A\_\_\_\_, A\_\_\_\_, A\_\_\_\_* *Acts 4:13-18*

**Peter is compelled to...** *Acts 4:19-22*

# *Why be devoted to prayer?*

## *3. We NEED God!*

*'God-channels' & 'Christ-witnesses'  
NEED God, which forces deeper  
devotion to prayer...corporate prayer.*

*-Meet with God* *Acts 4:23-24a*

*-Praise God* *Acts 4:24b-28*

*-Petition God* *Acts 4:29-30*

*-Empowered by God* *Acts 4:31*

# *Devotion to prayer & Abortion...*

## **1. Learn the Facts**

*Abortion is “the termination of a pregnancy after, accompanied by, resulting in, or closely followed by the death of the embryo or fetus.” (Webster)*

*Defining abortion as the “termination of a pregnancy” is like defining the death of your aged father as the “termination of hospice care.”*

- Abortion is not just the termination of a pregnancy but the intentional killing of unborn babies.*
- Instruments are inserted in a mother’s womb that tears a baby into pieces & the pieces are removed.*

# *Devoted to prayer & Abortion...*

- You can watch an actual abortion online at The Center for Bioethical Reform [very graphic.]*
- One of the fullest and best sites for education on abortion is Abort73.com*
- 1.2 million abortions per year happen in the U.S.*
- 46 million babies in US have been killed by abortion since it was legalized in 1973.*
- There used to be over 2,000 clinics-today about 752.  
To see a list of them, state by state:*

*[http://www.klanparenthood.com/DeathCamps/DeathCamps.](http://www.klanparenthood.com/DeathCamps/DeathCamps)*

# *Devoted to prayer & Abortion...*

## 2. God's solution is 'both/and' not 'either/or'

*-Love both 'Aborters' & those who could be 'Aborted.'*

*-People who own & work at & use these clinics are real people — and above all, they need Jesus Christ.*

*-What might God do if we corporately prayed that Christ would manifest His grace in those places?*

*-There must be no violence from us but peaceable civil disobedience if necessary.*

**There is more you can do than pray...**

**BUT prayer must be the basis of all our doing!**

# *Devoted to prayer & Abortion...*

## 3. Be a 'Christ-witness'

*-Be sure you have seen Jesus and His truth.*

*Acts 4:20... 'for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.'*

*-Know that those who benefit from wrongdoing often chose not to see clear evidence of the truth.*

*Acts 4:1-22 They would not see the truth because of what it would cost them!*

*-Speak God's Truth--Goal: not win but witness*

*Acts 4:19 'whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you judge...'*

# *Devoted to prayer & Abortion...*

- 1. Learn the facts*
- 2. Seek Life for 'aborters' & those to be aborted*
- 3. Be a 'Christ-witness'*

*4. PRAY*

**Sun., Jan. 27**     *...to Fellowship*     *Foot Washing*

## February: Building A Happy Marriage

**Feb. 3**     **Courtship & Dating**  
*How to enter into marriage?*

**Feb. 10**     **Sexual Intimacy in Marriage**  
*How to avoid prudishness & perversion?*

**Feb. 17**     **Reconciling when Broken**  
*How to restore brokenness (& avoid it)?*

**Feb. 24**     **Developing Intimacy**  
*How to date your spouse (grow in love)?*