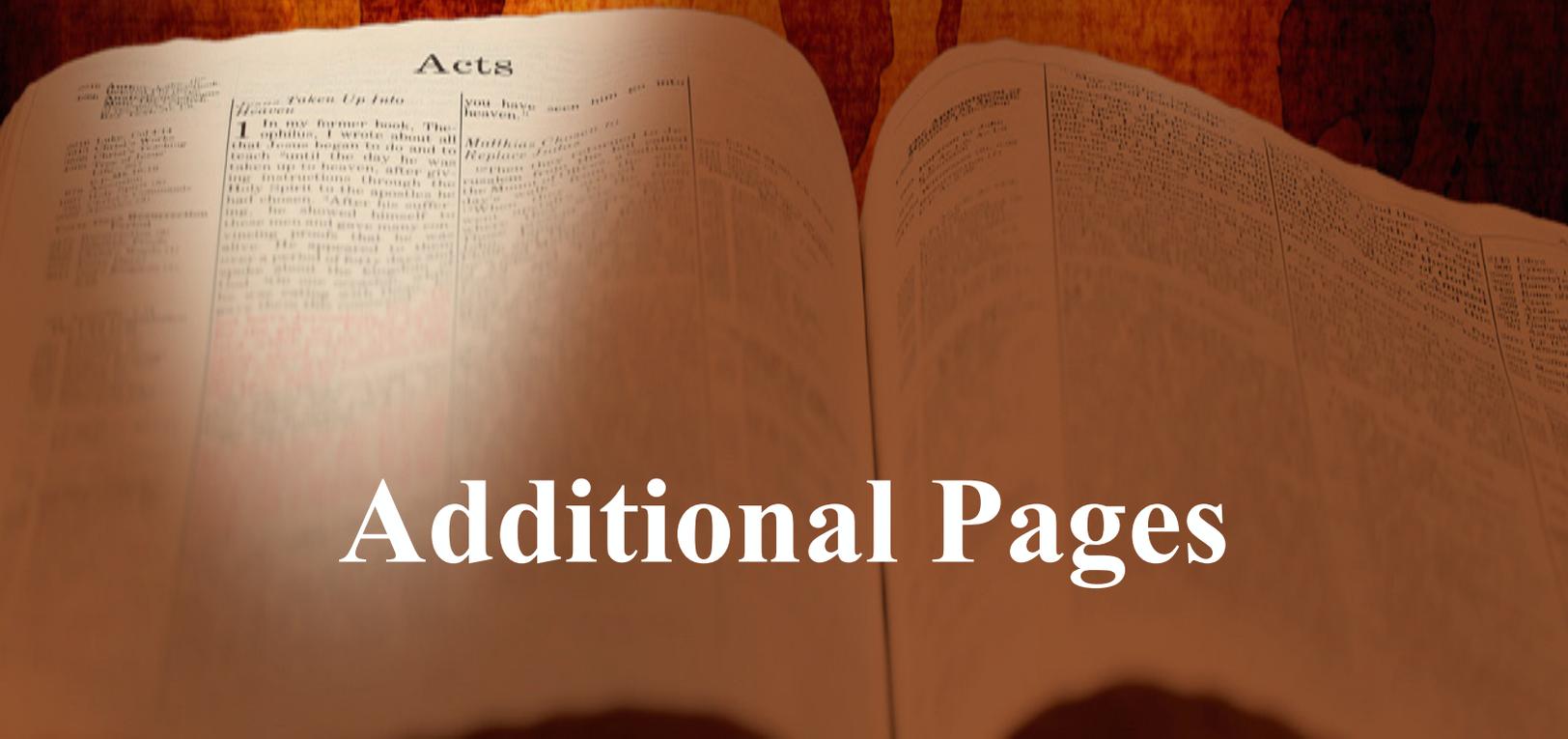


The Book of Acts

First Edition



Additional Pages

Our Emphasis On Prayer

✓ **Matthew 6:6** -- Do not engaged in public prayer if you have no life of private life of prayer which stands behind it.

✓ **Worship & Prayer & Song:** Worship happens when one responds to “revelation” --
when one is impressed once again
when one is reminded
when our minds are flooded with Who and God is and what He has done once again.
Listening to great hymns during a time of prayer can and does do that.

✓ **The Differences Between Public & Private Prayer**
[Not Exclusively, Yet Primarily]

◇ #1) The motivations of private prayer are more pure and sincere. We do not need to “keep our guard up.” Private prayer is as close as we will get to real prayer. Self pollutes everything it touches! Closet prayer is a road on which a hypocrite never travels.

◇ #2) Much more can and will be accomplished through the private prayer life of God’s people than will ever be accomplished through corporate prayer.

- more sincere motives
- more time
- more people
- more frequent

If the people of God are strengthened in the discipline of private prayer, the body of Christ will accomplish more than could ever be accomplished through the several occasions of public prayer.

◇ #3) The content changes with “closet prayer.”

- Private prayer allows for confession of personal sins -- our sins & secret tears.
- Private prayer allows for identifying areas of life which ought not be shared.
- Private prayer allows for praying for & about others without spreading possible gossip.

◇ #4) The opportunity & frequency changes. Private prayer can almost always be engaged in throughout the day regardless of the presence of others. That is what makes it possible to say, “praying always” -- Ephesians 6:16.

◇ #5) The circumstances surrounding the request need not be announced. There is no need to include “informational announcements” within one’s prayers.

◇ #6) Private prayer allows time for the Lord to talk to you during extended periods of just quietness silence & meditation.

◇ #7) Private prayer allows you the time to just quiet your heart before you pray, for whatever period of time it takes to pull away from all the distractions of life.

◇ #8) Private prayer moves your attention away from others. It is more difficult to ignore others when others are around us and/or around us praying -- i.e. the publican and the sinner.

Our Emphasis On Prayer

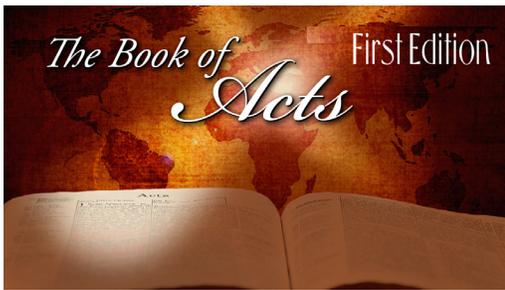
- ◇ #9) Private prayer provides an atmosphere which is full, free, and safe.
- ◇ #10) Private prayer is the only kind of prayer with a promise -- an open reward.



**If the people of God are challenged and strengthened
in the discipline of private prayer,
the body of Christ will accomplish more
than could ever be accomplished through
the several occasions of public prayer.**



**What would be the strength of several hundred
members and friends of H.B.C
regularly, consistently & privately praying
over the period of a week
for all seven days of the week
throughout the many hours of a day
for the work & ministry
in the Tampa area
&
around the world?**



Notes On The Book Of Acts

Biblical Principles

The Bible is designed to provide the believer with PRINCIPLES or “TRUTHS” which guide his/her thinking.

Those PRINCIPLES and TRUTHS come out of both

- the narrative-historical accounts which are
most of the Old Testament, the Gospels, the book of Acts, and Revelation.
- the grammatical arguments which are found in
the book of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Psalms and all of the New Testament from Romans To Jude

When It Comes To Decision Making & The Church Policies & Procedures Of A Local Church

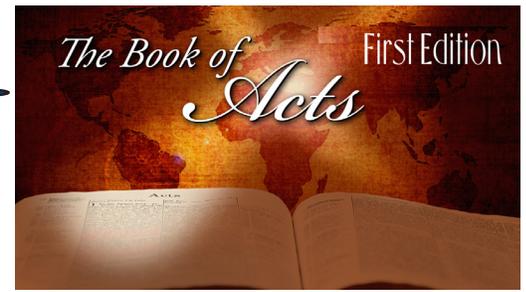
#1) Does the Lord address this in the Scriptures? -- Peter goes back to Psalm 69 and 109.

#2) Is there some right-minded parallel or reasoning which would allow or dictate this decision or direction?

We see here and at other places in Scripture this principle: The Purpose, Role, And/Or Activity Limits - Determines - Defines The Criteria For Selection -- Jethro & Moses / the selection of deacons in Acts 6 / the criteria for pastoral ministry.

The possible replacement of Judas should be a voice of authority. Therefore, one must be a witness to the Lord's ministry and resurrection.

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