

Power From on High

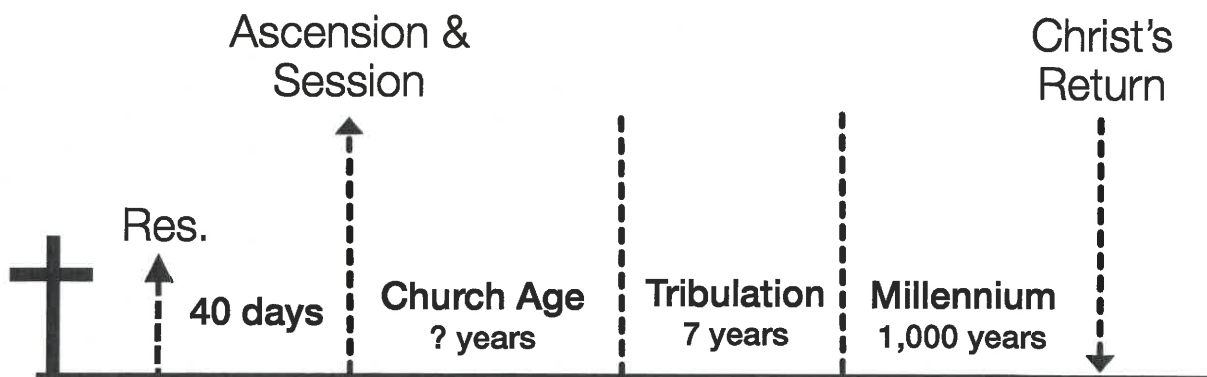
Series: Power From On High.
Title: Be Devoted to Prayer

Text: Acts 1:9-14
Date: May 8, 2022

How to be prepared to finish the Lord's work:

1. To be equipped with knowledge.
2. We must live out what we know.
3. To be baptized by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were **ALL** baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were **ALL** made to drink of one Spirit.



9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. 11 They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

Revelation 1:7 Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

Zechariah 14:4 In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.

Revelation 22:12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

"Sabbath day's journey"

According to rabbinic law the maximum distance a Jew could travel on the Sabbath was 2,000 cubits which was about $\frac{6}{10}$ of a mile.

13 When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James.

4. To be _____.

14 These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

“all” [pas]

“with one mind” [homothymadon] -

Christian unity is important to our Lord

John 17:11 “I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are.

John 17:21–23 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

22 “The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that **they may be one**, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be **perfected in unity**, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

Romans 15:5–6 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the **same mind** with one another according to Christ Jesus, 6 so that with **one accord** you may with **one voice** glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalm 133:1–3 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell together in unity!

Unity is fragrant.

2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, Coming down upon the beard, Even Aaron’s beard, Coming down upon the edge of his robes.

Unity is refreshing.

3 It is like the dew of Hermon Coming down upon the mountains of Zion;

Unity guarantees God’s blessing.

For there the Lord commanded the blessing—life forever.

We should strive for unity.

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **all agree** and that there be **no divisions** among you, but that you be made complete in the **same mind** and in the **same judgment**.

Unity brings joy to pastors.

Philippians 2:2 make my joy complete by being of the **same mind**, maintaining the same love, **united in spirit**, intent on one purpose.

5. Devoted to _____.

14 These all with one mind were continually **devoting** themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

“devoting” [proskartereo]

Devotion is the mark of true believers

14 These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves **to prayer**, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

“to prayer”

Acts 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Elders are to be committed to prayer

Acts 6:4 "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

Are there benefits to corporate prayer?

14 These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

"the women"

"His brothers"

"Mary the mother of Jesus"

The Catholic Church exalts Mary.

1. The _____ Conception

The Catholic Church firmly believes that Mary was immaculately conceived. That means she was protected from original sin, so she is sinless.

Romans 3:23 for **ALL** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

1 John 1:8–10 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. ... 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

She calls Jesus her Savior.

Luke 1:47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

Mary bore other sons and daughters.

Mark 6:3 “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?” And they took offense at Him.

2. She is the _____ of God

If Jesus is God then Mary, the one who gave birth to Him, must be the “mother of God.”

14 These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

3. The _____ of Mary into Heaven

They admit this comes from apostolic tradition and not Scripture. They believe she might not have died and was buried like everyone else.

4. Her Coronation as _____.

Catholics reason that since Jesus is the King of kings then His mother is Queen. And as such she offers abiding mercy, compassion, and intercedes for all of God's children

They also believe that she carries the title of Mediatrix which means she mediates salvation by her Son and that He bestows graces through her.

Discussion Guide

1. Why is the Lord's return so important and what should a study of end times do for us as believers?
2. Why is unity among believers so important?
3. Why is corporate prayer so important?
4. Why should Mary be honored, but not worshiped?
5. Do you have a prayer partner or prayer group? Will you commit to participating in the next corporate prayer meeting on May 25? In case you don't know, you are invited.

ANSWERS: unified, prayer, Immaculate, Mother, Assumption, Queen

