

- I. Prayer is the most powerful possible response to trouble (Acts 4, 12)
 - A. Acts 4:23-31 situation
 - B. When Peter and John report this, the church prays
 - C. Acts 12:1-5:
 - D. the church's surprise – how typical!
- II. Prayer is the most direct route to accomplishing anything or helping another person
 - A. Proverbs 16:3 “Commit your works to the Lord, and your plans will be established.”
 - B. Proverbs 16:9 “The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.”
 - C. Proverbs 21:1 “The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will.”
 - D. Ephesians 2:14 “He himself is our peace, who made the two one and broke down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility,”
- III. Prayer gives us a vision beyond our immediate needs (Luke 11:2-3; Eph. 2:11-3:1,14-21)
 - A. Why do we usually start praying? Some *immediate* need is pressing on us.
 - B. Are you suffering in the body? (1 Corinthians 15:16-26)
 - C. Are you feeling like the Lord is asking more from you than he should? (2 Timothy 1:8-12)
 - D. Is your heart breaking at the injustice in the world? (Psalm 73)
 - E. The promise of the future enables us to get through the difficulties of the present.
 - F. We need to be reminded often of God's past faithfulness and his future grace.
- IV. Prayer is the only real answer to anxiety (Philippians 4:4-9)
 - A. God is sovereign; he is the only one who can resolve what you are worrying about.
 - B. He commands: be anxious for nothing!
 - C. He commands: by means of prayer, make your requests known to God
 - D. Doesn't God already know?
 - E. Practical instructions (2 Corinthians 4:17; James 4:2-3)
 - F. How will the God of peace (v. 9) give us the peace of God?
- V. Why God answers prayer
 - A. Jesus is our high priest. God the Father listens to us because Jesus is our advocate.
 - B. And our prayers are offered by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - C. There was a moment when God did *not* hear Jesus, and the Holy Spirit left him.
 - D. Because he was forsaken we will never be.