**Minister Garry Parker August 20, 2017**

**When The Church Prayed**

**Acts 12:1-19**

**Key truth:** Be prayerful throughout fiery trials and persecution... especially once they have passed!

1. Don’t submit to your circumstance.

 A. Don’t expect lasting peace.

 B. Do not be discouraged.

2. God answers the prayers of the faithful and

 righteous.

 A. God will lead you if you let Him.

 B. God watches over His children.

3. When you pray be open to receive a God-Filled

 answer and result.

 A. God grants us more than we hope for.

 B. Pray with an expectant faith.

**Taking it Beyond the Walls:** Put EYES on your FAITH! Pray expecting God to “show out” for HIS Glory!

**Food For Thought**

For the Week of August 20, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

A classic definition of Christian prayer is “an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies” (Westminster Shorter Catechism).

Prayer has to do with the entire person. Prayer takes a believer’s whole being, mind, soul and body. It takes the whole person to pray, and prayer affects the entire believer in its gracious results. As the whole nature of man enters into prayer, so also all that belongs to man is the beneficiary of prayer. All of man receives benefits in prayer. The whole man must be given to God in praying. The largest result in praying comes to those that give all that belongs to them, to God. This is the secret of full consecration, and this is a condition of successful praying, and the sort of praying which brings the largest fruits.

Matthew 6:5-8

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. **6**But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. **7**“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. **8**Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Your prayer life is so critical to being able to be used by God. Decide how best you can improve your time with the Lord. Remember **ACTS** as a recipe for prayer:

**A**doration – **C**onfession – **T**hanksgiving – **S**upplication