

Eight Reasons to Start a Prayer Ministry

Melony had been working hard to start a prayer ministry in her church, but most of the prayer warriors were elderly, homebound members. Tonight, she was praying alone in the prayer room as a “Revelation of Hope” series began.

“I know that where two or three are gathered together in Your name, You are there, Lord, but what if it is just me?” she prayed silently.

When Melony opened her eyes, she saw that angels surrounded her. They stood shoulder to shoulder, and their beautiful faces revealed strength and kindness.

“I had been so discouraged, wondering if God could work if it were only me in the prayer room,” says Melony. “He miraculously showed me that if one person is praying, it is enough. I feel so unworthy and humbled that He would give me this great gift. We must never underestimate the power of prayer. Even if just one person is praying, that’s enough. God is at work even when we can’t see.” (Adapted from [“Angels All Around”](#) by Melony Coleman).

Does Prayer Ministry Matter?

Yes! The value of prayer ministry is demonstrated in the book of Acts. The apostles’ immediate response to Jesus’ promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8) was to gather for united prayer and supplication (Acts 1:14). God poured out His Spirit (Acts 2:1-4) while the disciples prayed, and thousands were converted in a day (Acts 2:40-41).

The new believers were not left to figure out their own spiritual path but were brought into a fellowship where they were nurtured through Biblical instruction, fellowship, and prayer (Acts 2:42). Prayer was the natural, united, strategic work of the entire church.

By Acts 6, the rapidly growing church needed better organization. Rather than being distracted by complaints (Acts 6:1), the apostles set up a simple and effective means of organization. Seven deacons are appointed to care for the details of the church so that—and this is important—the disciples could pray and teach the Word. “We will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word,” they promised (Acts 6:4).

The apostles saw prayer as a vital ministry of the church, so they organized the church to allow time and space for prayer. God guided them in this move, and the whole church saw the value in it (Acts 6:5).

Personal and corporate prayer runs like a golden thread through the experiences of the early church. (Acts 8:15-17, 26; 9:10-17, 36-40; 10:2-16; 12:5, 12; 13:2-3; 14:21-23; 16:13, 25; 19:6; 20:36; 21:5; 28:15). Prayer continually connected the disciples to God and His power.

Seventh-Day Adventist Prayer Ministry

Seventh-day Adventist prayer ministry exists to do the same thing. It is an intentional ministry that seeks to facilitate and encourage prayer in the local church. As prayer coordinators, we are to do as the apostles did—live a life of prayer and teach others to do the same. We are to be prayer leaders.

Prayer is vital in the last days of the earth's history. Jesus is eagerly waiting to pour out His Spirit upon His people in latter rain power, but it is our job to prepare the way through prayer and confession.

“A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work... Our heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But it is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessings. A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer.” (Selected Messages, book 1, p. 121)

8 Practical Reasons to Start a Prayer Ministry

1. A separate ministry allows the church to be more intentional about prayer.
2. Establishing a separate prayer ministry ensures that prayer will not get lost among the church's other programs.
3. A prayer ministry will undergird and empower other ministries and programs.
4. A prayer ministry enables the development of specific prayer programs within the church.
5. Christ said that we should be praying in the last days—in the days of the harvest. This provides a specific avenue for obedience to this Scripture.

6. When there is a special ministry and a designated person responsible for developing prayer programs and activities within a church, more people can become involved, more families will be reached, and more intercessors will actively pray for others.
7. More power is promised to the church as we pray, as individuals, families, and church groups.
8. More prayer is needed in the church. We need intentional prayer for pastors, teachers, church leaders, members, and families.

Promises for Prayer Ministry

“It is part of God’s plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask.” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 525) It is time

“The greatest victories gained for the cause of God are not the result of labored argument, ample facilities, wide influence, or abundance of means; they are gained in the audience chamber with God, when with earnest, agonizing faith men lay hold upon the mighty arm of power.” (*Gospel Workers*, p. 259)

Indeed, prayer ministry matters!