

the youth ministry. Do you pray or do you act?

A family needs help with meals. Do you pray or do you act?

Prayer is one of the most powerful tools we have at our disposal. It allows us to speak to Him and to petition Him directly for guidance and help.

But sometimes we can be the answer to our own prayer. Those are the times when we should pray *and* act. Maybe that missionary's request can be answered by your willingness to go. Perhaps you can donate some sports equipment. Are you a person God wants to cook a meal?

In the first century, the good news of Christ was spread by people going out and taking action. That's why their story is told in a book called *The Acts* of the Apostles, not *The Prayers* of the Apostles.

We should never down play prayer, for it is something God commanded us to do. But let's realise that sometimes we need to back up our prayers with action. —JDB

*Lord, when I sense Your call to serve,
Help me to follow through;
I must not simply pray and wait
When there is work to do. —Fasick*

God may want you to be the answer to your own prayer.



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Pray Or Act?

Having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. —Acts 13:3

A missionary comes to your church and says that he needs some short-term help. Do you pray or do you act?

The youth pastor says your church needs some new sport equipment for



Missions

Far Be it From Me

(1 Samuel 12:19-23) "And all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, that we may not die; for we have added to all our sins the evil of asking a king for ourselves." {20} Then Samuel said to the people, "Do not fear. You have done all this wickedness; yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. ... {22} "For the LORD will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you His people. {23} "Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; ... **(Matthew 28:18-20)** "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. {19} "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, {20} "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen."



As a local church we have four areas of responsibility regarding missions. We are to follow:

1. The pattern of the _____, Acts 13:1-3

2. The pattern of _____,

(Philippians 4:14-18) "Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. {15} Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. {16} For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. {17} Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account."



Randall Chovan



Keith Coleman



Daniel and Nellie De la Fuente

{18} Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God."
(Philippians 2:25) "Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need;"
(Philippians 2:27-28) "For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. {28} Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful."
(Philippians 4:19) "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

3. The pattern of _____,
(Colossians 4:2-4) "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; {3} meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, {4} that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak."

(Philippians 1:12-13) "But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, {13} so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;"

(2 Timothy 4:2) "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."

4. The pattern of _____, Acts 14:26-28

