

MISSION: POSSIBLE SERIES
Title: Mission Possible Part 2: The Habit of Prayer
Acts chapters 1-6

January 8, 2017

List one of your bad habits. List one of your good habits. When and how did you form this habit?

Studies show that 40 percent of our actions are not conscious decisions but habits. So habits are a big part of your life - and a lot of the time you don't even notice it!

Interesting facts about Habits

- Your life is to a large extent the sum of all your habits –good or bad.
- You can take control of your life by changing your habits.
- It's hard to shake off a habit since it takes an average of 66 days before a new habit takes root in our brain.
- Habits never truly disappear. They are just overpowered by other habits.
- A survey showed that the daily habit of self-acceptance was the cause of most people's happiness.
- Cravings are the brain's motivator. For something to become a habit, our brain must crave it.

Prayer is one of the habits of people who are on mission with God. Prayer is a habit that, like every other good habit, must be developed.

An electronic concordance quickly shows the importance of prayer in the Word of God. Variations of the word "pray" such as "prayer" and "praying," etc., occur 331 times in the NASB, 545 in the KJV, and 375 times in the NIV. The difference in numbers is caused by the fact some Greek and Hebrew words are translated differently in the different translations. For instance, the KJV might use the word "pray" while the NASB or NIV might use "ask."

JESUS HAD A HABIT OF PRAYING.

- Jesus prayed _____. Luke 5:16 reads, "But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."; Luke 6:12 says, "12One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night."

- Jesus prayed with _____. Luke 9:28 reads, "[Jesus] took Peter, John and James with Him and went up onto a mountain to pray."
- Jesus taught his _____ to pray. Luke 11:1 Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."
- Jesus taught _____ in prayer. "Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up" (Luke 18:1).

THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS HAD A HABIT OF PRAYING.

THEY PRAYED CONSTANTLY AND IN COMMUNITY.

Prayer: Acts 1:14 "They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers."

THEY DISCIPLED NEW FOLLOWERS IN A HABIT OF PRAYER.

Prayer: Acts 2:42 "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

THEY WERE COMMITTED TO A HABIT OF PRAYER AND MINISTRY.

Prayer: Acts 3:1 "One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer- or three in the afternoon."

THEY WERE COMMITTED TO PRAYING THE SCRIPTURES.

Prayer: Acts 4:29 "Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness."

THEY WERE COMMITTED TO A MINISTRY OF PRAYER.

Prayer: Acts 6:3-4 "Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."