****Feb 05, 2017**

**Forward Focus 2017: God’s Blueprint – Part 6**

*(The Power of Prayer)*

**Acts 2:42** *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in* ***prayers.***

**Review**

* **Spiritual growth (maturity), fruitfulness & doctrine**

You can’t grow if you don’t lay down a solid doctrinal foundation or platform.

**Hebrews 6:1-2**

**Why is it that some people are the way they are?**

(Diagram of tree: ‘Root and fruit’)

Only God can lay an ‘ax’ @ the root of an issue: individually & as a nation.

That’s why ‘behavior modification’ at the branch level, is not lasting

Paul changed from bigot to believer … through encounter !

**Some more foundational stuff**

**Psalm 119:160** / **Acts 20:27**

***‘7 – fold’ whole counsel of God***

**Prayers: The Heart of God:**

*To develop a meaningful and fruitful relationship with us*

*As Our Father, He wants us to trust Him and feels secure in our relationship.* **1 John 5:14**

**What they prayed for in Acts?**

1. Prayer of response and preparation: Acts 1:14
2. Established a lifestyle of prayer: Acts 2:42
3. Prayer for boldness facing opposition: Acts 4:23-24, 31
4. Prayer for ordination, release into authority: Acts 6:5-7
5. Prayer of forgiveness: Acts 7:59-60

**Final Take away**

Most often, we live our lives, pray our prayers, and make hard choices in the face of opposition and challenges.

The ‘good news’ is that we have a God who overcomes in and through us:

 -Lays an ax at the root of harmful patterns

 -Establishes us on a sure foundation of His whole counsel

 -Leads us to engage with Him in a lifestyle of fruitful prayer

 and …

-Causes us to enjoy abundant life He has purchased for us.

**Notes**