



DEVOTION TO GOOD, HARD THINGS

– ACTS 1:12-14

GETTING STARTED

Almost everything in life that is worth doing takes effort and discipline. If you want to play the piano, you have to devote yourself to practicing. If you want to speak another language, you have to study and practice. Jesus calls his disciples to do difficult things, and in the beginning of Acts he calls them simply to wait. Perhaps one of the most difficult things we struggle to do well. But waiting is not the same as inaction, and so as the disciples wait for the Holy Spirit, they follow the example of Jesus in their unity and their prayer. We need to learn how to slow down and devote ourselves to the same things. We need to learn to do the hard work of devoting ourselves in prayer.

READ THE TEXT: ACTS 1:12-14

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.



UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

1. Who is all gathered together in the upper room? Why does Luke mention all the disciples by name? Why does he include the women (look at Luke 8:1-3), Mary and his brothers? (look at Gal 1:18-19)
2. What is the context for unity in this passage? What makes them unified?

APPLY THE TEXT

3. We are living through a global pandemic. In what ways, if any, has that changed your prayer life? What are some reasons to be devoted to prayer in this seasons?
4. National, political, social, religious, ideological, and so many other differences are dividing people everywhere we look these days. In what ways does the gospel break down the dividing walls of hostility that are otherwise built up between us? How can we show that reality in our lives?

SHARE & PRAY

1. As we study the book of Acts, think carefully about 1 or 2 people that you would like to actively share the gospel with. Share them with your life group and hold one another accountable in prayer and support.
2. In light of Acts 1:12-14 spend extra time in your gathering simply to pray. Pray that God would unite us as a church and give us his Holy Spirit that we might minister effectively.

