

An Extraordinary God... Does Extraordinary Work

The Ordinary Church

Through Ordinary People, Doing Ordinary Things,



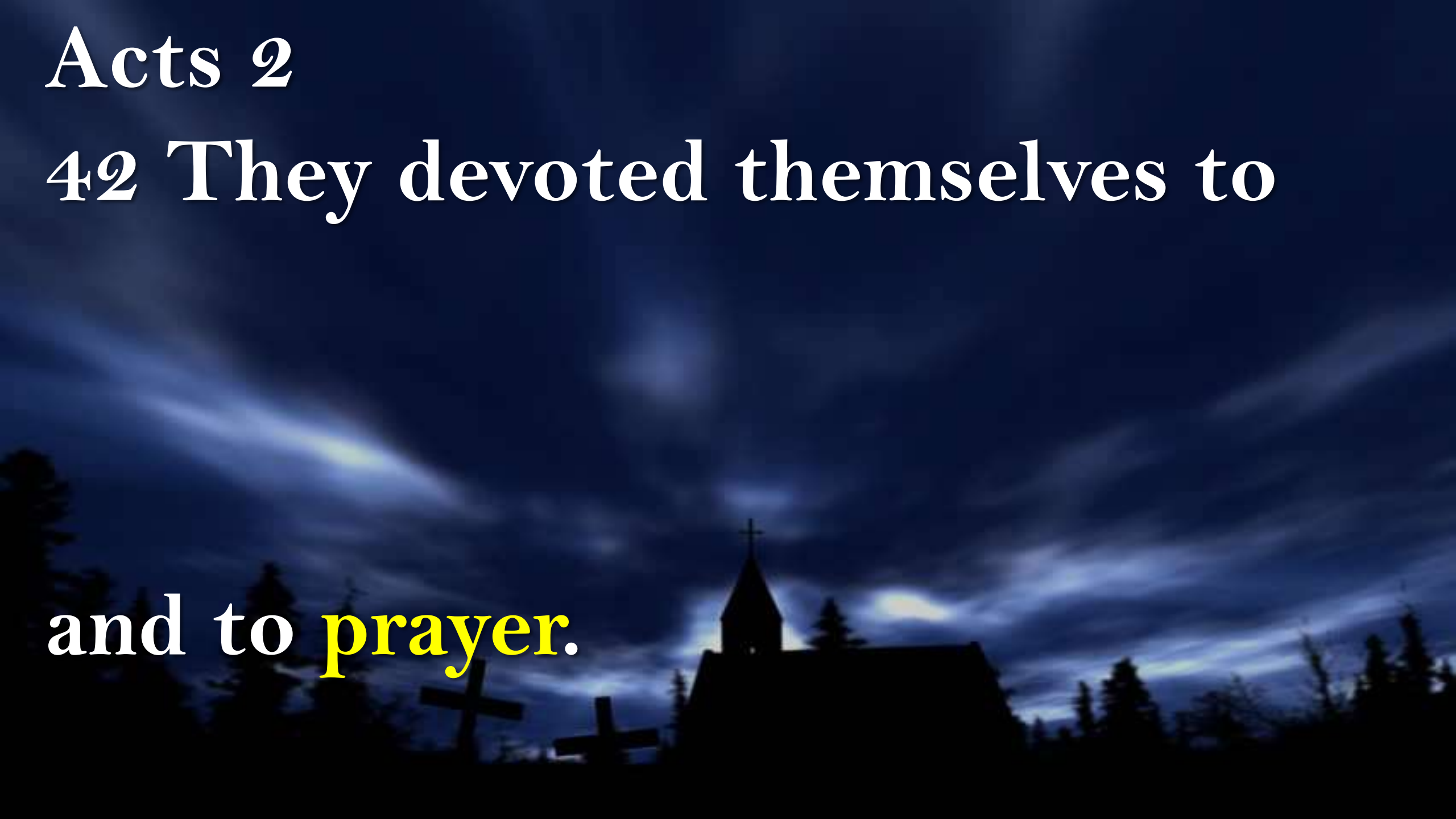
Acts 2

42 They devoted themselves to
the **apostles' teaching**
and to **the fellowship**,
to the **breaking of bread**
and to **prayer**.

Acts 2

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and to **prayer.**



Prayer

Why pray?

1. Prayer glorifies God as God
 2. Prayer orders all things into their proper place
 3. Because God is sovereign and can change things
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- The background of the slide features a dark, atmospheric night scene. In the center, a church steeple with a cross on top is silhouetted against a cloudy, dark blue sky. To the left and right of the steeple, several crosses are visible, suggesting a cemetery or a churchyard. The overall mood is solemn and contemplative.

Daniel 9

1 In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes, a Mede by descent, who was made ruler over the kingdom of the Chaldeans —

2 in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the sacred books, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years.

3 So I turned my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and petition, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.

James 5

16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

The prayer of a righteous man has great power to prevail.

17 Elijah was a man just like us.

He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth yielded its crops.

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1 John 5

13 I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

14 And this is the confidence that we have before Him:

If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we already possess what we have asked of Him.

Prayer

Why pray?

3. Because God is sovereign and can change things...

...According to His purpose and promises

- His Kingdom
- One another's needs
- Our own needs
- Wisdom and understanding
- Perseverance in trials
- Peace, boldness and courage

How do we know what God's will is?

Romans 8

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until the present time.

23 Not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

24 For in this hope we were saved; but hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he can already see?

25 But if we hope for what we do not yet see, we wait for it patiently.

Romans 8

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know how we ought to pray, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans too deep for words.

27 And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

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26 In the same way, **the Spirit helps us** in our weakness. For we do not know how we ought to pray, but **the Spirit Himself intercedes** for us with groans too deep for words.

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27 And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints **according to the will of God.**

28 And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose.

Prayer

Why pray?

4. Because we love the One who saved us

- People who belong to God pray



Acts 9

11 “Get up!” the Lord told him. “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, **for he is praying.**

12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.”

Acts 10

1 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was called the Italian Regiment.

2 He and all his household were devout and God-fearing.

He gave generously to the people and **prayed to God regularly.**

Prayer

Why pray?

4. Because we love the One who saved us

- Adoration
- Praise
- Thanksgiving
- Repentance
- Celebrating our adoption as His children

Prayer

Why pray?

5. Because we love others

1 Samuel 12

23 As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you.

1 Timothy 2

1 First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be offered for everyone—

2 for kings and all those in authority—so that we may lead tranquil and quiet lives in all godliness and dignity.

3 This is good and pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Prayer

Why pray?

5. Because we love others

- Praying for the needs of others
- Praying for God's will for others
- Praying for others causes us to love them

Matthew 5

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and **pray for those who persecute you,**

45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.

For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Prayer

Why pray?

5. Because we love others

- Praying for the needs of others
- Praying for God's will for others
- Praying for others causes us to love them
- Praying unifies the church

Prayer

Why pray?

6. Because prayer changes us

- Prayer aligns our will with God's will
- Praying is a way of “watching” for temptation



Ephesians 6

18 Pray in the Spirit at all times, with every kind of prayer and petition.

To this end, stay alert with all perseverance in your prayers for all the saints.

Matthew 6

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

Jude 1

20 But you, beloved, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,

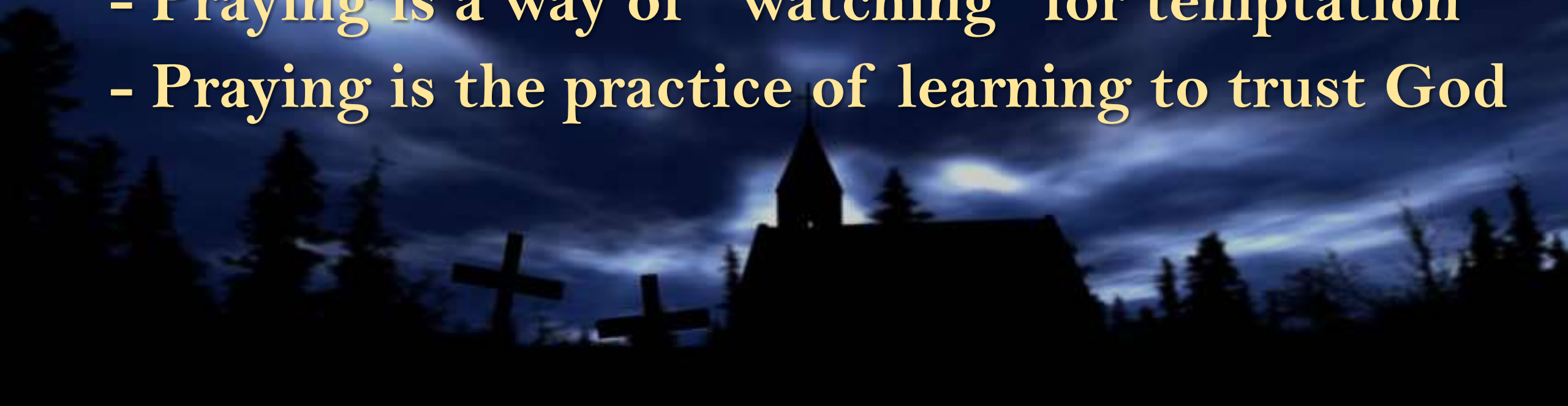
21 keep yourselves in the love of God as you await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you eternal life.

Prayer

Why pray?

6. Because prayer changes us

- Prayer aligns our will with God's will
- Praying is a way of “watching” for temptation
- Praying is the practice of learning to trust God



Nehemiah 4

9 So we prayed to our God and posted a guard against them day and night.

Prayer

Why pray?

6. Because prayer changes us

- Prayer aligns our will with God's will
- Praying is a way of “watching” for temptation
- Praying is the practice of learning to trust God
- Praying to become like Christ
- Prayer changes our heart's desires

James 1

14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

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