

## **“What God’s People Must do to be Prepared for Ministry-Pt.2”**

*In Acts 1:4-26, there are 3 essential elements that prepare us for ministry:*

I. Wait for what the Lord has Promised—vv.4-5

II. Trust in what the Lord has Planned—vv.6-11

**III. Depend on what the Lord has Prepared—vv.12-26**

**1. By Seeking Him in Unified Prayer—vv.12-14**

**2. By Processing Events through the Scriptures—vv.15-20**

**3. By Trusting in His Absolute Omniscience—vv.21-26**

Rom. 12:1; Eph. 2:2; Rom. 15:5-6, 12:12; Col. 4:2; Matt. 19:28;  
Rev. 21:14; Jer. 17:10; Ps. 44:21; Prov. 16:33

It is striking that at almost every important turning point in the narrative of God's redemptive action in Acts, we find a mention of prayer (1:24; 4:24; 8:14-17; 9:11-12; 10:4, 9, 30; 13:2-3). [However,] This portrayal is never in danger of suggesting that the true initiative in salvation-history lies in believers, in their determination to pray for specific events to come to pass. God is only fulfilling what he long before promised. Such decisive acts of God, as the descent of the Spirit...on the disciples at Pentecost and at Cornelius' home, take place in a context of prayer...[These instances] give a unified picture of the close relationship between prayer and God's decisive acts of salvation, right up to the 2nd coming (Luke 18:1ff). (1)

David in his person and office carried the full weight of the messianic promise-plan of God. David had been given this knowledge in 2 Samuel 7 [where David receives the promise that an eternal kingship will be established through his seed or lineage. It's eternal because ultimately the Messiah will come from his seed]... Consequently, what David says about himself also extends in significant ways to the Messiah who would one day arise from his line...Accordingly, along with finding Messiah in the Seed promises of the OT, we also find on the flip side...a line of those opposing the promised line, such as [David's enemies], Judas and [eventually] the Antichrist. (2)

The Twelve had a unique role; as eyewitnesses of Jesus' life, death, resurrection and exaltation, they testify to the truth of these foundational events in God's plan of salvation in an authentic and reliable manner. All subsequent generations of Christians are dependent on the testimony of these first witnesses. (3)

1 David G. Peterson, *The Acts of the Apostles*, The Pillar NT Commentary, 118.

2 Walter C. Kaiser Jr., *Three Views on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*, 62-63.

3 Eckhard J. Schnabel, *Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the NT*, 107.