

PRAYER FOR BOLDNESS – WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOD’S PEOPLE PRAY -- ACTS 4:23-27

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by Pastor Chuck Smith, David Hocking, John Stott, Vernon McGee, Warren Wiersbe and others.

THE REASON PEOPLE PRAY – Acts 4:23-24a

Act 4:23 And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.
Act 4:24 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said:

THE RECOGNITION OF GOD’S POWER – Acts 4:24b

"Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them,

vs 23-24a “they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. Act 4:24 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said”
- THE REASON PEOPLE PRAY – Acts 4:23-24a

Threats and attempts to stop the preaching of God’s word
Cf. - Colossians 4:2-4; A time to pray!!
2 Thessalonians 3:1-3 Pray for us that the Word may spread rapidly and be glorified...!

v 24 “Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them” - THE RECOGNITION OF GOD’S POWER – Acts 4:24b; Note the address here! It’s to God! The secret of God’s power is God Himself!!! When you pray, do you really believe He can do it? God can do mighty things when God’s people pray! God is able!
cf - Ephesians 3:20-21

Quote from Psalm 146:6 and Exodus 20:11 - “despot” “Lord”- the One who is in charge of everything!

“WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PEOPLE PRAY” - Acts 4:23-37 – A great example of prayer/praying for us!!!!

The early church had none of the “advantages” that some ministries boast of and depend on today. They did not have big budgets provided by wealthy donors. Their pastors lacked credentials from the accepted schools, nor did they have the endorsement of the influential political leaders of that day. Most of their ministers had jail records and would probably have a hard time today joining our churches, let alone leading them. What really was the secret of their success? This chapter provides the answer: the Christians of the early church knew how to pray so that God’s hand could work in mighty power.

We aren’t told here that they all got together, painted signs, and went down and protested in front of the temple, but they went to God. They took it to prayer. I think that when we see injustices in our world, that we can actually do much more through prayer than we can through public kinds of demonstrations. It is much better to pray. They prayed. It was definitely wrong, the threats that were made to them. It was definitely wrong, so they are praying about it. And their prayer, I think it is a great model for prayer. Prayer is not an escape from responsibility; it is our response to God’s ability. True prayer energizes us for service and battle.

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THE REALIZATION OF GOD’S PLAN – Acts 4:25-28

Act 4:25 who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'WHY DID THE NATIONS RAGE, AND THE PEOPLE PLOT VAIN THINGS?

Act 4:26 THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.'

Act 4:27 "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together

Act 4:28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

THE REQUEST OF PRAYER - Acts 4:29-30 –

Act 4:29 Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,

Act 4:30 by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."

THE REALIZATION OF GOD’S PLAN – Acts 4:25-28-

*v 25. “Your servant David” - In the PROPHECY of David – Acts 4:25-26
“pais” – “servant” – used of Jesus in Acts 3:13, 26; 4:27, 30*

v 27 “Your holy Servant Jesus” - In the FULFILLMENT in Jesus – Acts 4:27-28 - “servant” – “child” – “paida”

v 28 “to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.” They believed as shown here that this was God’s plan!

v 29 “Your servants” - THE REQUEST OF PRAYER - Acts 4:29-30 – Your servants - “doulos”

v 27 “stretching out Your hand” – notice the recognition of God’s grace

We need to pray according the plan of God!

1Jn 5:14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

Jas 4:15 Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.”

Lord, You’ve known all about these circumstances. You wrote about them over a thousand years ago!

They didn’t just in to their petition to the Lord! Recognize the greatness of God! He’s in control!

Give us the boldness Lord!

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THE RESULTS OF PRAYER – Acts 4:31-35

Act 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken;

and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit,

and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Act 4:32 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.

Act 4:33 And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

THE RESULTS OF PRAYER – Acts 4:31-35

Six results: Their place was shaken; filled with the Holy Spirit; preaching was bold; possessions were shared; great power; provisions were supplied.

*v 31a “the place where they were assembled together was shaken”
- The PLACE was shaken – Acts 4:31a; cf - Psalm 29:8; 68:8*

v 31b “they were all filled with the Holy Spirit” - The PEOPLE were filled with the Holy Spirit – Acts 4:31b

v 31c “they spoke the word of God with boldness.” - The PREACHING was bold – Acts 4:31c – boldness – definition -a state of boldness and confidence, courage, confidence, fearlessness, especially in the presence of persons of high rank. The term given to a testimony where no judgment is at stake regarding your testimony.

*v 32 “but they had all things in common.” - Their POSSESSIONS were shared – Acts 4:32
Unity was rooted in unselfishness – they got rid of the term “mine”! Everything they have and are, belongs to God!*

v 33 “with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.” - Their POWER was great – Acts 4:33

One of the results of their prayer was that the place was shaken!

They did pray they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Are you bold in your sharing the message of Jesus Christ?

Notice the wonderful koinonia, their hearts were bound together!

God’s great grace gave the great power!

WE NEED TO PRAY MORE THAN EVER BEFORE!

Prayer is not an escape from responsibility; it is our response to God’s ability. True prayer energizes us for service and battle.

2Ch 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

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Act 4:34 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold,
Act 4:35 and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.
Act 4:36 And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus,
Act 4:37 having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

v 34 “Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold” - The PROVISIONS were supplied – Acts 4:34-35; cf - Philippians 4:19

Questions:

1. How effective is your prayer life? Your first resource or your last resort?
2. Would you like to see great power of God in these last days? What do we need to do?
3. In verses 25-28 we see the awareness of the disciples in praying according to the plan or will of God. How important is that practice in your prayer life?
4. Who ultimately was responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus? Who killed Jesus according to verse 27?
5. Does the action shown in verse 29 with respect to pray consist or include the removal of threats?
6. If you were in the disciples shoes, how would you have prayed?
7. V. 31 “they spoke the word of God with boldness”
Define boldness.
8. In verses 31-35, there are six results of prayer mentioned. What are they?
9. Would you describe what was occurring in verse 32, as Christian communism? Why or why not?
10. V. 32 “*neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own*” Can you truthfully make that statement? Who is the owner of your possessions?