

**Missional Resolve**  
**Acts 4:23-37**

Quoting scripture in Prayer  
Allowing it to be a guide.  
Connecting you to the movement of God.

Psalm 2:1-2 Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? **2** The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers conspire together against the Lord and his Anointed One:

John 16:33 I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”

- God’s people in the middle of the nations raging is a sign of his coming kingdom!
- The peace and justice will take place through God’s anointed king - King Jesus, the son of God.
- God’s people are praying with depth and fervor for the Messiah to return and rule the world.

**Question:** How are you praying for Jesus’ return?

How are you participating in his mission?

Romans 1:3-5 concerning his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was a descendant of David according to the flesh **4** and was appointed to be the powerful Son of God according to the Spirit of holiness by the resurrection of the dead.

**5** Through him we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the Gentiles,

Summary of what it means to know and follow Jesus.

- He is the Son of God.
- He is the promised descendant of David (Messiah).
- There is power in his name proven through the resurrection.
- Grace has been offered.
- It leads to obedience through faith.
- We are heralds of this personal experience and this great news!

Present in their Prayer

Rooted in scripture  
Honest about the situation  
Asking for boldness  
Continue to work powerfully

Not present in their Prayer

Cause them to die  
Stop them  
Protect us  
Convert the authorities

Change my heart  
Change me

Change my circumstances  
Change them

**vs. 29**, Consider their threats.

Allow your servants to speak your word with boldness.

Jesus is at work in his people through healing and signs and wonders.

There is power (empowered) in Prayer (the place was shaken).

Filled with the Spirit they began speaking the Word of God boldly.

In times of trouble, suffering, and chaos, if our minds are fixed on Jesus (the author and perfecter of our faith) than we will find focus (concentrating on the right things), be driven to God’s word, and experience God’s mercy and power.

**vs. 31**, God’s presence  
Shakes us.  
Fills us with his Spirit.  
Gives us boldness.

**vs. 32**, Unity  
One heart and mind.  
No place for selfishness/self promotion.  
Held everything in common.

Philippians 1:27 Just one thing: As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel,

Communal living - not a novel idea  
1st century BC (100-1BC) - Dead Sea Scrolls

Similar but different  
Christians -> new covenant community through Jesus.  
A community in which God's promises are coming true.

Deuteronomy 15:4 "There will be no poor among you, however, because the Lord is certain to bless you in the land the Lord your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance—

Part of displaying the new covenant is belonging to a community where there is no needy person among you.

What is Luke up to? 2:42-47 and now, 4:32-35  
This movement is happening through God's Anointed.  
These believers are the beginning of the true covenant community.

How?  
Jesus has accomplished the total forgiveness of sins and debts (this is the resurrection).

Luke 4:16-21 He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. As usual, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. **17** The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him, and unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written:

**18 The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.**

**20** He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him. **21** He began by saying to them, "Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled."

Jesus quoting Isaiah 61:1-2.

God's people share!

Philippians 4:15-16 -> church in Thessalonica  
Romans 15:25-28 -> Macedonia (Philippi and Thessalonica), Achaia (Corinth).  
1 Corinthians 11:22 -> Paul rebuking the church for not sharing

What is being done with money and possessions reveals the kind of person / community that you are.

The early church is living as the true people of God.  
Practicing generosity.

(Radical American Individualism) / sharp contrast to the kingdom.

One heart & One mind -> ready to regard each other's needs as one's own  
Philippians 2:1-4 Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.  
Ephesians 4:1-4 (2-3) with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **3** making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

**vs. 36**, Joseph - a Levite from Cyprus.  
Barnabas (son of encouragement) -> example of the practices of a follower of Jesus.

Bold proclamation with power  
1 Corinthians 4:20 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.