

“Joined Together in Bold Prayer” Acts 4:23-31.

Series: The Church Begins - Acts” Part 11.

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Key Thought: God unites His people in prayer, and God’s people are filled with the Holy Spirit as they pray together.

I. The Release of Peter and John is a shared victory. (4:23)
23 On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them.

- A. Peter and John were released to glorify God (23a)
- B. Peter and John witnessed to a gathered fellowship. (23b)

II. Praise and prayer expressed in their worship (4:24) **24**
When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.

- A. Expressions of song and words of glorification of God. (24a)
- B. Expressions of giving God honor and praise. (24b)

III. Proclamation in the Power of God’s Word (25-28)

- A. God spoke to Israel through the earthly king David (25) **25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: “Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?**
- B. God speaks to the nations through Jesus the Messiah (26)
26 The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.’
- C. God worked through Jesus’ death and resurrection (27-28) **27**
Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

IV. Petitioning for God’s Holy Spirit. (29-31)

- A. Prayer for boldness for God’s people in speaking the Word (29) **29**
Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.
- B. Prayer for God’s help and intervention in signs and wonders (30) **30**
Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”
- C. Prayers of petition were answered (31) **31** **After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly**
 - 1. God is revealed at certain places and times
 - 2. God will shake this world up when necessary.
 - 3. All believers are filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - 4. The Holy Spirit empowers us to speak boldly.

Key Point: Where is God releasing and sending us? God answers our prayers by releasing, healing and empowering His people with the Holy Spirit to speak and preach the Word of God boldly.

Questions for Discussion:

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1. In what ways has Peter changed as a person from the time he denied Jesus to this time he proclaims Jesus?
2. The word **boldness** is emphasized in this passage, what does boldness mean to you? In what ways did you see boldness in the Olympics recently?
3. We see praise and prayer closely connected. How does God work through praise and prayer to give strength and courage to His people? (24)
4. What is the role of God’s Word in Scripture within prayer? (25-28)
5. What petitions are given through the people’s prayer? (29-30)
6. How did God respond through His Holy Spirit?
7. What are your petitions from God for today?
(PRAYER TIME)