

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning – 11-23-25
Christianity 103 – Message 4 Part 5
Unity, prayer – God moved!

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) The growth of our faith is directly related to our study of God's Word.
- 2) Peter and John told the council that they –
- 3) Peter and John went back to the Church to share what had happened.
 - a) Hebrews 10:23-25 –
- 4) This community of believers did not complain about their circumstances.
- 5) Their prayer reflected what they believed about God.

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) They asked for “boldness” – unreservedness in speech.
- 2) We hear their hearts, their desire for the Gospel to go forward.
- 3) Why did they pray for boldness? They could see what many could not.
- 4) We, believers, can see what the unbeliever cannot see.

2. Lord, “stretch forth thine hand...” Verse 30

a. We want to be a part of what you are doing.

- 1) By not asking for deliverance but for boldness indicates -
- 2) “By stretching forth thine hand” –
 - a) They see God at work and know their calling, their mission and they want to be involved.

b. They are asking God to move specifically.

- 1) Verse 30 – “stretch forth thine hand to heal.” – healing, curing.
- 2) “and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.”
 - a) “sign” – a miracle of God that points to God and authenticates who He is.
 - b) “wonders” – acts that cause awe and amazement.

3) What does this mean here?

- a) As they speak the truth that God –
 - b) All of this will work together to confirm the message of the Gospel to –
- 4) Why do we not see things like this today?

c. Their prayer acknowledges the Sovereignty of God.

- 1) What does “sovereign” mean in relation to God?
 - a) God is preeminent in power and authority.
- 2) It is possible to believe that God is Sovereign over all things and understand that God also chooses to allow some things that He does not directly cause.
- 3) There is a danger in Christianity too so emphasize the Sovereignty of God that the church is left paralyzed for there is no sense of any genuine personal responsibility.

3. What happened next? Acts 4:31

a. “And when they had prayed, the place was shaken.”

- 1) “shaken” – to cause to totter.
- 2) “and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost.”
- 3) “and spake the Word of God with boldness.”
- 4) Do you take this literally?
- 5) Application –

4. Their minds are being transformed. Acts 4:32-36

a. Verse 32 –

- 1) “multitude of them that believed” – the community of believers.
- 2) “were of one heart and of one soul.”
 - a) “heart” – the center of intellectual activity.
 - b) “soul” – the seat of the will.
 - c) They thought the same things, and they wanted the same things.
- 3) “all things common.” The highest degree, belonging to several.
 - a) They shared with one another what they had.
 - b) They as a community, led by the Spirit, practiced stewardship.
 - c) These believers were not saying what I own belongs to me, but it belongs to the one who gave it to me.
- 4) Application – The desire for the local body.
 - a) Be in unity –
 - b) Be generous and share with others –
 - c) Be good stewards –

b. Verse 33

- 1) “great power” – this was not their own power but the power of the Spirit of God in them.
- 2) “great grace was upon them all” – “grace” – favor.

c. Verse 34-35 –

- 1) This testimony of the early church is both a blessing and a challenge.

5. Today’s Take Away:

a. Can you see here an important correlation?

- 1) Their testimony of unity, care, compassion and stewardship was being used by God to prepare hearts so that when the Gospel is shared, people were responding.
- 2) What is on your prayer list?