

You and Me Against The World

September 24, 2017

I. Find places and people where you can be spiritually encouraged.

Acts 4:23 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.

Acts 4:24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God.

A. There is spiritual power in corporate declaration.

Luke 6:27-28 “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

B. Prayer should be our first response and not our last resort.

II. When the challenge is big, make God bigger.

Acts 4:24 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. God empowers the called.

Jeremiah 1:6-8 “Alas, Sovereign Lord,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.” But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the Lord.

Psalm 146:6-9 He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them— he remains faithful forever. He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free, the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

B. God defends the righteous

Acts 4:25-26 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? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.’

C. In times of trouble, our weapon is God’s Word.

Ephesians 6:17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

III. The promises of God encourage the children of God.

A. Expect opposition.

1. God's plan will ultimately prevail over earthly people and powers.
2. God is never caught off guard by the situations that we face.

Acts 4:27-28 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. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

- I would rather be God’s servant than make myself a king.

Acts 4:29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

- You can face a challenge with confidence knowing that someone greater has your back.

Psalms 138:3 When I called, you answered me; you greatly emboldened me.

3. Before you ask God to change your situation ask God to change yourself.

B. The mission is not changed by opposition.

1. The strength of your character is more important than the size of the challenge.

1 Peter 2:12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

2. Allow your challenges to strengthen your calling and not cripple your faith.

Romans 5:3-4 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

C. Believe that God will be God as you serve Him faithfully.

Acts 4:30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

Psalms 37:7-9 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil. For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land.

Acts 4:31 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.

Exodus 19:18 Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the Lord descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently.

Isaiah 6:4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

1. Trust God to make Himself known.
2. Trust God to renew you.
3. Trust God to empower you.