

Praying Together

Read: Acts 4:23-31

Main Idea: When Christians unite in prayer, they empower each other to confront challenges with boldness and faith, drawing on the strength provided by the Holy Spirit in response to their collective cries for help.

Key Verses: “And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”
(Acts 4:29-30, ESV)

Key Principles:

- God’s sovereignty over all creation provides the foundation for confident prayer, reminding believers that He controls history and human opposition.
- Scripture shapes communal prayer, as seen when the early church quoted Psalm 2 to interpret current threats through God’s eternal plan.
- United prayer fosters empathy and shared mission, encouraging the church to support one another in witnessing amid persecution.
- Boldness in proclamation comes from recognizing that earthly powers conspire in vain against God’s anointed purposes.
- The Holy Spirit empowers ordinary believers for extraordinary witness, confirming God’s presence through tangible signs.
- Prayer aligns the church with God’s will, turning threats into opportunities for greater faith and gospel advancement.

Discussion:

1. How does the apostles’ immediate return to the fellowship after threats illustrate the importance of community in facing spiritual opposition?
2. In what ways can quoting Scripture in prayer help us reframe personal or cultural challenges through God’s perspective?
3. Share a time when recognizing God’s control over worldly powers reduced your fear and increased your trust in His plan.
4. What practical steps can we take to confront prejudice or division, as the early church did by uniting across backgrounds in prayer?
5. Why is requesting boldness essential when opposition arises, and how does this passage show God responding to such prayers?
6. How does the Holy Spirit’s role in empowering the community motivate you to pursue collective prayer for mission today?

Prayer:

- Pray for unity to face challenges together, seeking God’s power amid opposition.
- Pray for:
 - Boldness to proclaim the gospel despite opposition or rejection
 - The Holy Spirit to empower witness and signs of His presence.
 - Support for fellow believers, advancing God’s mission through shared prayer.

Praying Together
Acts 4:23-31

- I. **Run to the fellowship.** **4:23-25**
 - 1. You will face challenges. 4:23
 - 2. You are not alone. 4:24-25

- II. **Recognize God's sovereignty.** **4:26-28**
 - 1. Do not fear powers of this world. 4:26-27
 - 2. Do not forget God is in control. 4:28

- III. **Request boldness and power.** **4:29-31**
 - 1. Turn to God for courage. 4:29
 - 2. Trust the Holy Spirit for power. 4:30-31

NEXT WEEK:
Giving Together
Acts 4:32-5:11