

Passionate Prayers for a Bold Witness in the World



Missional Praying

Acts 4:18-31

Sunday, November 13, 2016

1. They pray TOGETHER.
2. They pray in light of the expected OPPOSITION.
3. They pray for BOLDNESS to SPEAK God's Word.
4. They pray for God to WORK in Jesus' name.
5. Their prayers were HEARD and ANSWERED.

As we study of the book of Acts together, we are letting the life of the Early Church inform and shape our life as a church. In the second half of Acts 4, we learn . . .

***It's a big, Biblical vision of God and the Gospel
that fuels
passionate prayers for a bold witness in the world.***

A Big, Biblical Vision of God and the Gospel

1. God is the CREATOR of all and SOVEREIGN LORD of the nations.
2. God has been accomplishing a Gospel mission across all HISTORY.
3. God's Gospel mission has always been OPPOSED by the world.
4. God's Gospel mission has now been SOVEREIGNLY REALIZED in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
5. God's Gospel mission is now HIS CHURCH'S Gospel mission.



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Connect Together

Galatians 6:2 tells us *“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”* Take time to share the joys and burdens of life together!

Study God's Word Together

1. How did you come under God's Word in the message last week? What did you think or feel in response to the message?
2. Ask someone in the group to retell the story of Acts 3 and 4 up to the prayer of the church in Acts 4:23. Others can add details and color as necessary. What is the occasion for the church's prayer in Acts 4:23-31?
3. Now read Acts 4:23-41 together. What are some of the ways that their prayer reflects a BIG, BIBLICAL VISION OF GOD?
4. In light of their BIG, BIBLICAL VISION OF GOD, what two things do they ask God for and how does this relate to the MULTIPLY MISSION OF GOD? What are some things that church DOES NOT pray for?

5. Do you ever pray for boldness to share your faith? If not, why not? If you do, have you experienced God answering that prayer? Are you willing to begin praying for boldness and opportunity to share your faith?
6. Many of us feel ill-equipped and/or afraid to share our faith. Boldness for us might begin with loving/engaging/serving some non-Christians. Share with one another some practical ways you can do that?
7. Who are specific non-Christians God has placed in your “circle of influence”? Will you begin to pray for them by name? Will you begin to pray for opportunities to love and share your faith with them?
8. The sad reality is that many of us Christians don't have many opportunities to interact with many non-Christians. If that's the case for you, what is one practical thing you can do to begin to change that?

Pray Together

As you pray for one another, pray “missionally” after the prayer of Acts 4:23-31.