

ACTS

of the Holy Spirit

Session #8 – 4:23 - 37

I. A Prayer for Boldness (4:23 - 31)

Verse 23

On their release,
Peter
and John

went back to their own people
and reported all that the chief priests
and elders had said to them.

Three Praises:

- We got to tell them ABOUT Jesus again! (witness)
- They realized that we had been WITH Jesus! (identification)
- They told us NOT to talk about Jesus anymore! (persecution)

This is the greatest testimony!

Verse 24

When they heard this, (recognition of the miracle)
they raised their voices (phone = verbal)

together (homothymadon = one accord)
[in prayer] (Priase/thanksgiving/honor)
to God.

The practice of unity in corporate and verbal prayer!

To Whom

- 1) "Sovereign Lord," (despotes = master/owner)
they said,
- 2) "you made the heaven (ouranos – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd)
and the earth (ge = ground/soil)
and the sea, (thalassa = source of life on earth)
and everything in them.

"Despotes" + "creator" = owner and master of something!

Verse 25

You spoke

by the Holy Spirit
through the mouth
of your servant,
our father David:

Through
Scripture



"Why do the nations (ethnos) rage (phryasso)
and the peoples (laos) plot (meietao) in vain? (kenos)

This corporate praise is highlighted by reference to Holy
Scripture as proven IN this situation! This is a reference to Psalm
2 in the Old Testament. The congregation affirms:

- 1) The inspiration of the Holy Spirit
- 2) The authority as "God breathed" through David's writing.
Psalm 2 teaches us to expect opposition and not fear it!

Verse 26

The kings of the earth

take their stand (paristemi = remain)

and the rulers

gather together (synago = united for a cause)

against the Lord (kyrios)

and against his Anointed One. ' (Christos)

Connection with
Current Situation

Psalm 2 is speaking about another situation in history, but this
praise shares the same situation.

Psalm 2

1 Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? **2** The
kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together
against the LORD and against his Anointed One. **3** "Let us break
their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters."

4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at
them. **5** Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in
his wrath, saying, **6** "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy
hill."

7 I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are
my Son; today I have become your Father. **8** Ask of me, and I will
make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your
possession. **9** You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will
dash them to pieces like pottery."

10 Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the
earth. **11** Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with
trembling. **12** Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed
in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment.

1 Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Verse 27

Indeed [for truly]



- 1) **Herod** – Herod Antipas – “King of the Jews”
- 2) **and Pontius Pilate** – 5th Prefect of the Romans
met together with (synago)
- 3) **the Gentiles** – considered pagans
- 4) **and the people of Israel** - Jews
in this city
[to conspire]
against your holy servant Jesus,
whom you anointed.



Connection with Jesus' situation

This was Jesus' situation as related to Psalm 2.

Can you believe how mortal enemies will join together to fight against a larger enemy for their own purposes?

Verse 28

They did what

your (God's) **power** (cheir = hand)

and (God's) **will**

(boule = advise to determine purpose)

had decided beforehand

(proorizo = predetermined)

should happen. (ginomai = will occur)

Statement of Faith
in God's
Sovereignty

This prayer affirms the fact that people can only do as little or as much as God's purpose and God's will allows them to do.

Real peace can only come with real confidence in the will and purpose of God in all circumstances. (Rom. 8:28)

This is profound statement of faith! Faith is the “*substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen*” (Heb. 11:1)
“*Without faith, it is impossible to please God*” (Heb. 11:6)

Verse 29

Now, Lord,

consider their threats (awareness)

and enable your servants (doulos = slaves)

to speak your word (logos = written)

with great boldness.

(parresia = fearless speaking)

Petition #1

Prayer is based on WHO we are in Christ and HIS words power and authority.

This prayer does not seek LESS confrontation but the opportunity for MORE confrontation!

Petition #1 is a request for boldness!

Verse 30

Stretch (ekteino = to extend out) **out your hand**

1) **to heal** (iasis = the act of curing)

2) **and [perform miraculous]**

signs and wonders

through the name

of your holy servant Jesus."

Petition #2

Petition #2 is a request for the power of God to be revealed through the Holy Spirit. They did not ask for the power to perform miracles themselves, but that the gift of the Spirit might be given during this ministry.

Notes on Prayer and Praise

- There is power in corporate and verbal prayer
- Spoken in true unity of heart and love for God
- Focused on who God is first
- Speaking the authority of God's word in all circumstances
- Seeing all circumstances in light of God's word
- Claiming the powerful promises of God in times of praise and persecution
- Connecting our current situation with that of those in Biblical history
- Stating our belief that nothing is outside the will and purpose of God
- Knowing that we walk in faith in who we are in Christ and through His word as we are led by the Holy Spirit
- Asking for specific boldness and manifestations of the Holy Spirit

Verse 31

After they prayed,
the place

where they were meeting

was shaken.

And they were all (who? – “their own people” vs. 24)

filled with the Holy Spirit

and spoke the word of God boldly. (not tongues)

These were believers and those who had already been filled at Pentecost. So this is a refilling. This refilling was not accompanies with speaking in other languages, but rather, with boldness.

The concept of “filling” is not a singular and static event, it is something that needs to be continued throughout one's life.

As the power is used – it has to be replenished.

2 Eph. 5:8 – “...*be filled with the Spirit*” = Keep on being filled up...



II. All Things in Common (4:32 - 37)

Verse 32

All the believers
were one in heart and mind. (psyche= soul)
No one
claimed that any
of his possessions
was his own,
but they shared (koinos = common ownership)
everything they had.

They understood that God owns everything!

One of the truest signs of true conversion is how a person views others and how a person views things. When there is more concern for others than oneself and things become tools of God's kingdom work, then we see a true disciple of Christ.

Verse 33

With great power (dynamis)
the apostles continued
to testify (martyrion) to the resurrection
of the Lord Jesus,
and much grace (charis) was upon them all.

As a result of their focus on God, and their loving others as Christ calls them to – this led to more power given from God through the Holy Spirit.

Verse 34

There were no needy persons
among them.
For from time to time
those who owned lands or houses
sold them,
brought the money
from the sales

Verse 35

and put it
at the apostles' feet,
and it was distributed
to anyone as he had need.

This generosity soon was taken advantage of resulting in rules from the Apostle Paul in later text including:

6 Guidelines for Helping the Needy:

- 1) **Prayerfully** discern who is “needy” (I Tim. 5:3)
- 2) If one can **work** he must provide for himself (2 Thess. 3:10-12)
- 3) If **family** can support them they should (I Tim. 5:3,4)
- 4) They must remain **faithful** to the body of Christ (I Tim. 5:5,10)
- 5) The body must examine **moral conduct** (I Tim. 5:9-13)
- 6) The support should be **basic needs** only (I Tim. 6:8)

Verse 36

Joseph,
a Levite from Cyprus,
whom the apostles called Barnabas
(which means Son of Encouragement),
A person who was well known as a giving person.

Verse 37

sold a field he owned
and brought the money
and put it at the apostles' feet.