



Acts 4:18-33

Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

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. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God.

"Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. 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 take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One. 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. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

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.

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.

1. We Unite In Battle Against A **DEADLY ENEMY**

"Then all the believers **were united** as they lifted their voices in prayer" (24)

"with one accord, unanimously, all together"

"The kings of the earth **prepared for battle**...against the Lord" (26)

2. We Pray Urgently: We Are In **IN THE FRONT LINES**

"For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard" (20)

3. We Pray Expectantly: Our **GREAT KING RULES**

"O **Sovereign Lord, Creator** of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—you spoke long ago...(Now) that is what has happened here... In fact, **everything they did occurred according to your eternal will and plan.**" (24-28)

4. We Report For Duty In **REDEMPTIVE HISTORY**

"Lord, you spoke...That is what is happening... O Lord, **hear** their threats, and **give** your servants great boldness in their preaching. **Send** your healing power" (25-30)

5. We Pray For Victory More **THAN SAFETY**

They didn't pray:

They prayed:

Protect us from persecution

Give us power to persevere

God change our circumstances

God use us in our circumstances

God keep me safe

God make me dangerous

Ask for boldness

"give your servants great boldness" (29) "Fearless confidence"

Ask for God's power

"Send your healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of Jesus." (29)

The Result: Answers That **SHAKE OUR WORLD**

After this prayer, the **building where they were meeting shook**, and they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit**. And they **preached** God's message **with boldness**. All the believers were of **one heart and mind**...And the apostles gave **powerful witness to the resurrection** ...and **God's great favor** was upon them all." (31-33)