

LEARNING WITH LUKE - ACTS 4:23-31 TIME FOR POWER P.1084 PEW BIBLE

Acts 4:23-31 - When they were released, they went to their friends and...they lifted their voices together to God and said, “**Sovereign Lord**, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who...said by the Holy Spirit, “...The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against His Anointed’—...Your holy servant Jesus... to do whatever Your hand and Your plan had predestined to take place. 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.” And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Their prayer for boldness in witness shows a determination to directly disobey the command of the Sanhedrin.

They do not pray against those who persecute them, but pray for their own faithfulness in witness. Their prayer evidences strong belief that God will work in their midst in an immediate way that authenticates the gospel. -JB Polhill

1- GOD IS SOVEREIGN - creator and ruler of all

Acts 4:23-24 - Sovereign Lord

Jer 4:10, Luke 2:29, 1Tim 6:15, Rev 6:10

Acts 1:14, 2:42, 12:1-17, 13:1-4, 16:13-15, 20:36-38, 21:1-6 - together in prayer

Ex 20:11, 2Chron 2:12, Neh 9:6, Jer 10:12, Psa 102:25, 124:8, 134:3, 146:1-10 - maker

Gen 1:1-3, Psa 33:6,9, 148:5, Jn 1:1-3, Col 1:15-17, Heb 1:2, 11:3 - triune God

Acts 1:16, Heb 10:15, 2Pet 1:21 - inspiration

Before they came to petition, the believers filled their minds with divine sovereignty, as they prayed to the Sovereign Lord, God of creation, of revelation, and history, the God who made, who spoke, and who predetermines. -JRW Stott

2- PEOPLE OPPOSE HIM - and His anointed Jesus

Acts 4:25-26 - your servant said

Psalm 2:1-2 (1-12) - the Lord's Anointed

Matt 3:17, 17:5, Acts 13:33, Rom 1:4, Heb 1:5, 5:5

Isa 40-55, 42:1, Luke 3:22 - suffering servant

Acts 4:27-28 - God's predestined plan & hand

Luke 3:1, 23:1-24 - Herod and Pilate

Acts 2:23,36-38, 3:13-19, Gen 50:20 - responsibility

God's Anointed, the Christ descended from David, would be targeted by an international conspiracy and yet emerge victorious, enthroned as God's royal Son on God's holy hill, to rule all nations to the ends of the earth. -DE Johnson

3- BELIEVERS ARE BOLD - to speak God's word

Acts 4:29-30 - boldness & power

Acts 4:29, 2:36, 7:31 - Lord Christ

Acts 4:31, 2:4, 4:8 - filled with the Spirit

Isa 37:14-20, 2Kings 19:14-19 - similar prayers

Exod 3:3,14,16,(1-22), Acts 4:28,30, 11:21 - God's hand

Their God-centered prayer was shaped by what God had said to them in Scripture, focusing on Jesus. -DE Johnson

Christians are to obey authorities unless they command what God forbids, or forbid what God commands. -RC Sproul

4- SPEAK OUT FOR JESUS! - “you will be My witnesses”

Acts 4:20,29,31, 4:13 - continue to speak

Matt 5:10, John 15:16-16:4, Luke 12:11-12, 21:12-19, Jn 17:8-21 - cannot but speak

Exod 19:18, Isa 6:4, Matt 27:54, 28:2, Acts 16:26 - earthquake

Acts 2:4, 4:31, 9:17, 13:9-11, Luke 1:15,41-45, 12:11-12, Eph 5:18 - filled with the Spirit

1Thess 2:1-16, 2Cor 5:11-6:2 - we appeal to you

Eph 6:18-20, Col 4:2-6, Tim 4:10-14, 2Tim 1:6-14, 4:5, 3:12, Titus 2:15 - boldly

We must remain in the Word, constantly being taught, interacting with it anew, so that Christ is projected through our entire lives. We must pray for His fullness, and spend time with God's people, so His light will flow. -RK Hughes

DAILY BIBLE READING ENGAGE~WORD~CHURCH~COMMUNITY~WORLD

9-25 Acts 4:23-31 - prayer

9-26 Psalm 2:1-12 - the Son

9-27 Isa 37:14-20 - kingdoms

9-28 John 15:16-16:4 - Spirit

9-29 Luke 21:12-19 - persecute

9-30 Eph 6:18-20 - boldness

10-1 1John 5:9-13 - Son of God

The Spirit of God works the Word of God so the people of God become like the Son of God

♦ How will I be transformed, by God's truth, in the Spirit's power, as I trust & obey?

ACTS of the
Ascended
Lord Jesus Christ