

Big Prayer: Be Bold

Acts 4:23-31

²³ On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵ 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?

²⁶ The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the Lord
and against his anointed one.'

²⁷ 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. ²⁸ They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. ²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

³¹ 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.

Points

- A Big God Answers Big Prayer.
- Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven... - Matthew 6:10
- Sovereign Lord, you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them...
- Praise reminds us what God is able to do.
- Remember this is not God's first time.
- Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven – Matthew 5:10
- When we encounter resistance, it is time for big prayer.
- Big Prayer means understanding and aligning with God's big plan
- God's big plan – Help as many people as possible take their next step toward Jesus.
- Big prayers are Bold Prayers
- Send power.
- Ron Lewis – Most churches are scared to death of the Holy Spirit's power because they will lose control
- Your will be done, your Kingdom come, on earth as it is in Heaven.

Group Discussion Questions

Starter: When you hear the phrase "Big Prayer" what comes to mind?

Go Deeper

1. Read Acts 4:23-31
2. Notice their first reaction to a crisis is to pray. What's your first reaction? What would change if prayer was your first reaction?

3. They began their prayer with praise. A big prayer should begin with praise related to your request. If you were to pray for a revival in our country, what kind of praise might you offer? If you were to pray for a church grow, what kind of praise might you offer? If you were praying for a group of people to change their mind, what kind of praise would offer?
4. Read v. 28. What do you think they meant by this phrase “Your power and will decided beforehand...?”
5. In your opinion, what does healthy boldness look like in a church? How can we be bold and not obnoxious?
6. In your opinion, what would it look like if our church was filled with Holy Spirit and miracles, signs, and great works were occurring in Jesus’ name?