

A New Testament Model for Prayer (Acts 4:23-31)

- Peter and John had just healed a lame man at the Gate Beautiful (3:1-10)
- He preaches the Gospel to a crowd, urging them to repent & believe (13-19)
- Peter & John: arrested for preaching the resurrected Christ (4:1) many believe
- Religious rulers: troubled & cannot do anything to them for fear of the people
- They threaten: not to teach / preach in the name of Jesus again or else (13-18)
- After release: they returned & reported to the church all that happened (4:23)
- The church did not fret, they turned to the Lord in prayer, trusting Him (4:24)

I. First Theme in Their Prayer: God Created All Things (4:24)

- ‘LORD, you are God’ foundation to prayer – knowing the sovereign God
- The God they are calling on created all things for His glory by His power
- This is the essence of true prayer: run to Him without hesitation (Heb 11:3,6)
- The question is do we know this God who created through His Son Jesus

II. Second Theme in Their Prayer: Sovereign God Revealed Himself (4:25,26)

- “who by the mouth of Your servant David have said” lit. Holy Spirit inspired
- David spoke in prophecy of one greater than Himself – coming Messiah
- Throughout the Old Testament we have such prophecies – (2 Peter 1:20,21)
- God worked through history, from one man Abraham came Israel his people
- Through Israel came Messiah, Jesus, God’s Son to save lost sinners
- Ps 2: The nations: Gentiles, authorities, people: religious rulers of Israel; kings of the earth: Herod, rulers: most likely refers to Pontius Pilate against Christ

III. Themes of Creation and Revelation Lead to Biblical Petition (4: 29, 30)

- Everything you have spoken & done leads us to this point Lord: Empower us
- The place where they were meeting: shaken- they witnessed with boldness