

THE POWER OF PRAYER IN THE PEOPLE OF GOD TO ACCOMPLISH THE PROGRAM OF GOD

Acts 4:23-31

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September 10, 2023

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

Poor communication is always a symptom and never the source of problems in a relationship.

Matthew 12:34b-35

For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. The good man brings out of *his* good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of *his* evil treasure what is evil.

? Will you join me on this journey of learning to pray well?

INTRODUCTION: AN OCCASION FOR PRAYER

? What would become of the church? What would become of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

In studying this prayer, we find several principles that we should adopt.

I. THE MANNER OF THEIR PRAYER

A. CORPORATE, VV. 23-24, 31

The first response of the church as their mission hung in the balance was prayer.

1 Timothy 2:8

1. To Their Own, v. 23

When Peter and John were released, they didn't go home and lick their wounds. They didn't want time by themselves to regroup. They wanted to be with their church.

Matthew 12:46-50

2. They Lifted Their Voices, v. 24

3. With One Accord, v. 24

a. Corporate prayer promotes church unity

Acts 1:14

b. They all expressed the same thing differently

This doesn't mean simultaneously or in unison.

4. Desperately, v. 31

We find this attitude in verse 31.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Matthew 9:36-38

When we are desperate we pray.

? How did they pray?

II. THE CONTENT OF THEIR PRAYER

A. SAYING TRUE THINGS ABOUT THE PERSON AND PROGRAM OF GOD.

? And what did they say about God?

1. You Are Powerful, v. 24

a. Sovereign

b. Creator, v. 24

2. You Have A Plan, vv. 25-28

a. You communicated that plan, vv. 25, 26

b. You carried out that plan, vv. 27, 28

Psalm 76:10a

For the wrath of man shall praise You;

B. MAKING REQUESTS OF GOD BASED ON HIS PERSON AND PROGRAM, VV. 29, 30

1. Empower Us, v. 29

2. To Declare, v. 29

3. While You Carry Out Your Plan, v. 30

? What do they hope to gain?

III. THE RESULT OF THEIR PRAYER, V. 31

God can and will work as He desires when He desires, but we should not expect God to do anything if we aren't praying together.

A. SHAKING

B. FILLING

C. CONTINUED EVANGELISM

CONCLUSION: WHAT DID WE LEARN ABOUT PRAYER

Acts 4:32

? What did we learn about prayer today?

-We gained some practical instruction on prayer.

-We saw the results of prayer.

? What attitudes did we see?

Maybe you found other principles of prayer in this passage. I would be interested to know what you found in this passage.

APPLICATION:

Mark your calendars.

? Do you pray desperately?