

Following the Real Jesus: The First Church Prayer

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Saturday, April 24, 2021
Acts 4:8-10, 12, 18-20, 23-35

Following the Real Jesus: The First Church Prayer

The church launched around a mission to make disciples/followers of Jesus. To lead people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus.

Jesus didn't come to make bad people good. He came to make dead people alive.

The church has a sort of gravitational pull to exist for the insiders and not the outsiders. The church loses its vitality when it separates itself from the mission. How a church prays tells you about its focus.

How would we pray? Safety, comfort, blessing, ourselves.

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of our people, ⁹ are we being questioned today because we've done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed? Acts 4:8-9

¹⁰ Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. Acts 4:10

¹² There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

In the name of Jesus. Association, identification
This is who/what I represent.

Jesus is God's only way to be saved. Super narrow. So bold.

¹⁸ So they called the apostles back in and commanded them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. Acts 4:18

¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, "Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him? ²⁰ We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard." Acts 4:19-20

We aren't telling what Jesus taught, we are telling what He did.
Good people don't go to Heaven. Saved people do.

²³ As soon as they were freed, Peter and John returned to the other believers and told them what the leading priests and elders had said. Acts 4:23

How would you pray?

²⁴ When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God: “O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them— Acts 4:24

²⁵ you spoke long ago by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant, saying, ‘Why were the nations so angry? Why did they waste their time with futile plans? Acts 4:25

²⁶ The kings of the earth prepared for battle; the rulers gathered together against the LORD and against his Messiah.’ Acts 4:26

²⁷ “In fact, this has happened here in this very city! For Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, your holy servant, whom you anointed. Acts 4:27

²⁸ But everything they did was determined beforehand according to your will. ²⁹ And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. Acts 4:28-29

Why boldness? The boldness isn't theirs. They need it for next time.

³⁰ Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” Acts 4:30

³¹ After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:31

³² All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. Acts 4:32

³³ The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. Acts 4:33

³⁴ There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them ³⁵ and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need. Acts 4:34-35

When was the last time we prayed for boldness?

The result of bold/big prayer keeps Jesus followers focused outward.

“Love one another as I have loved you.” - Jesus
What does love require of me?

²⁹ And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” Acts 4:29-30