

Power to Witness in Word and Deed

The Book of Acts

Acts 4:23–35

Review Acts 4:1–22.


1. As the believers listened to the report Peter and John gave them about their interaction with the chief priests and elders (v. 23), what do you think they might have been feeling?

Read Acts 4:23–30.

2. What do the believers immediately choose to do in response to Peter and John's report? (v. 24)
3. Acts 4:24b–30 records the believers' prayer. Given the experience the apostles have just had with the religious rulers, why is it significant that the believers address God as Sovereign Lord?
4. Read Psalm 2.
 - a. How is the quotation from this Psalm relevant to the report the believers have just heard?
 - b. What "kings of the earth...and rulers" (v. 26) united against Jesus in fulfillment of David's prophesy? (v. 27)
 - c. Why are the raging, plotting, and standing against God and his Anointed One in vain? (vv. 24, 27–28; Ps. 2:4–6)
 - d. The cross demonstrates that God uses even the murderous acts of evil men to accomplish his purposes. How would this serve as an encouragement to these believers?
5. It would have been understandable if the believers had asked God in their prayer for protection from harm, but what two things do they ask for instead? (vv. 29–30)

Read Acts 4:31–35.

6. When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, there was a "sound like the blowing of a violent wind" (2:2).
 - a. What happens in this passage after the believers finish praying? (v. 31)

- b. Why does God cause these physical signs? (2:18–19, 22; * Ps. 99:1-3)
7. What characterizes the community of believers? (v. 32; 2:44–45)
8. The unity of the believers brought about by the Holy Spirit's presence and power works itself out in practical ways.
- a. What are some of those ways? (vv. 32b–35)
- b. How does this challenge you?
9. Read Acts 2:24, 32–33, 36; 3:15; Eph. 1:19b–23.
- a. What was the main theme of the apostles' testimony? (v. 33)
- b. Why?
10. Consider a difficult situation in your life. Using the pattern of the believers' prayer in this passage, write out your own prayer to the Lord.

Worship

Acknowledge God's sovereignty and right to rule.

Acknowledge God's power as revealed in his creation.

Acknowledge Your Need

Recognize that God's plan cannot be thwarted either by you or others (best evidenced by the death and resurrection of Jesus).

Tell God about your problem.

Make Your Request

Ask for courage to speak and live boldly in the midst of the situation in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ask God to show you how he would have you respond to the situation and people in your life.

*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.