

The Prayer of the Jerusalem Church

Text: Acts 4:23-31

- I. Prelude to the Prayer
 - A. Peter and John healed a well-known lame man at the Temple (3:1-10).
 - B. This presented an opportunity for them to preach the Gospel (3:11-26).
 - C. As they spoke, the Jewish leaders had them arrested (4:1-4).
 - D. On the next day, they threatened them and charged them to speak no more in the name of Jesus (4:5-22).
 - E. When Peter and John returned to the church at Jerusalem and reported what had happened, the congregation prayed.

- II. Petition of the Prayer
 - A. This was a congregational prayer – “they lifted up their voice” (vs. 24a).
 - B. They gave praise and honor to God as Almighty Creator (vs. 24b).
 1. They knew His power in Creation.
 2. They had seen His power in miracles.
 3. They trusted His power in hearing and answering prayer.
 - C. They acknowledged Him as the God of Truth and prophecy (vs. 25-26).
 1. They quoted Scripture from Psalm 2.
 2. They declared that it was the Word of God.
 3. They acknowledged that it was the Truth.
 - D. They spoke of current happenings and saw God’s hand in them (vs. 27-28).
 1. Psalm 2:1-3 – The people of the world would seek to thwart God’s plan.
 2. Psalm 2:4 – God laughs at the plans of men against Him.
 3. Psalm 2:5-9 – God always accomplishes His purpose.
 4. Psalm 2:10-12 – The wise will trust God, serve Him, and kiss the Son.
 - E. They asked to behold the threats of their enemies (vs. 29a).
 - F. They prayed for God to grant them boldness to keep preaching (vs. 29b).
 - G. They prayed for God to confirm His Word by miracle (vs. 30).

- III. Power of the Prayer
 - A. The place was shaken (remember, this was during the age of miracles).
 - B. God granted their request – they were filled with the Holy Ghost (inspiration) and preached with boldness.
 - C. The church grew closer to God and to one another (4:32-35).
 - D. The church grew (5:14).