

A prayer of the early church

Acts 4:23-31

Background

- **Acts 3:** Peter and John perform a miracle and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ
 - God raised Jesus from the dead (vs. 15,26)
 - God calls on you to repent (vs. 19,26)
- **Acts 4:1-22** – Peter and John arrested and threatened by the Sanhedrin
 - The apostles declare the power of God (vs. 8-12)
 - Sanhedrin could not deny their message (vs. 13f)

A Prayer of the Early Church

Thought question:

Put yourself in the place of the apostles and first Christians facing these adversities. How would you have felt? What would you have prayed for?

A Prayer of the Early Church

- vs. 24 – the sovereignty and power of God
- vs. 25-27 – the promises of God and their fulfillment
 - Even in ways that mortal man would never have guessed! See **I Pet 1:10-12**.
- vs. 28 – all of this was under God’s control!
 - Literally: *“the hand of you and purpose of you set bounds before to become”*
- vs. 29 – prayer for boldness and God’s help

Lessons for Our Prayers

- **All of our boldness and confidence must find foundation in God!**
 - Talents, abilities, resources, strengths, knowledge: whether in us or others, these all come from God!
 - **Seeing God as the foundation of what we usually find confidence in helps us to have confidence when the outcome is not as clear!**
 - Think about I Sam 17:34-37; Matt 6:25-34

Lessons for Our Prayers

- **To pray for boldness, you need to honestly assess what situations shake your confidence!**
 - *Thought question:* What situations threaten you in ways similar to the threats against the apostles?
 - *Thought question:* Are there other situations that cause similar fears in which you need to pray a similar prayer?
 - Can we learn to **anticipate** the situations that will assault our confidence, and pray about them?

Lessons for Our Prayers

- 1. Remember God's sovereignty and power!**
- 2. Remember God's faithfulness in fulfilling His every promise!**
- 3. Remember that God has a will for YOU!**
- 4. Make a determination to do your part as God fulfills His!**