



## A Prayer: "Give Us a Spirit-Filled and Christ-Centered Boldness"

Acts 4:23-31  
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**The Big Idea:** The miraculous healing of a helpless man is a physical miracle that Jesus did through the Apostles. It was a picture of a **greater** miracle, the saving and healing of those who are helpless in their sin. In sin we are not weakened and in need of strength but are **dead** and in need of a **resurrection**.

### Acts 4:23-31 (ESV)

4<sup>23</sup> When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup> And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "**Sovereign Lord**, **who made** the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, <sup>25</sup> **who** through the mouth of our father David, your servant, **said** by the Holy Spirit,

" 'Why did the Gentiles rage,  
and the peoples plot in vain?

<sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers were gathered together,  
against the Lord and against his Anointed—

<sup>27</sup> for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup> **to do whatever** your hand and your plan had **predestined** to take place.

<sup>29</sup> And now, **Lord**, **look** upon their threats and **grant** to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, <sup>30</sup> while you stretch out your hand to heal, and **signs and wonders** are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." <sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the **place** in which they were gathered together **was shaken**, and they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and **continued to speak the word of God with boldness**.

## Things Christians of Every Generation Should Know

1. There will always be **opposition** to Jesus and His word, but none of it surprises the Lord
2. Jesus is sovereign over every **detail** and **circumstance** we face. He is more powerful than all His enemies and the things that come against His plans and purposes.
3. Jesus is the rightful and absolute **authority** over our lives. Have you trusted Him and submitted to Him?
4. God **sees** what you're going through and He speaks to you through His Word.
5. God "sets the boundaries" of our lives ("predestines"), shows us a **little** of what He is doing, and then shows us a little **more** as we learn to trust and follow Him.

## A Model of How to Pray – Ask God For 3 Things

1. Give us **boldness** to speak the word of God.
2. **Heal** helpless people. Let's remember that the greatest and most eternal problem anyone has is from the disease of sin.
3. Do "signs and wonders" – that which can only be done by a Sovereign, all-powerful, and loving God. This will always be for the **Glory** of His **name**.

## God's Response to the Group's Prayers

- ✓ The room shook – He reminded them He has **power** over all things.
- ✓ They were "filled with the Holy Spirit". There is **one** indwelling that occurs at the moment of your salvation but **many** fillings. To be filled means to become responsive to and controlled by the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ They spoke of Jesus and His Word with **freedom** and **boldness**.

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"The Word of God and prayer must always go together. In His Word, God speaks to us and tells us what He wants to do. In prayer, we speak to Him and make ourselves available to accomplish His will. True prayer is not telling God what to do, but asking God to do His will in us and through us."

- Warren Wiersbe

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