



## MEN OF COURAGE

**“A Prayer Meeting  
Like No Other!”**

*Acts 4:23-31*

November 22, 2015

### **THEIR PATTERN**

- ✓ They **Shared** Together
- ✓ They **Prayed** Together *Matthew 18:19*

### **THEIR PRAYING**

- ✓ Their Praise: He **Created** Everything  
*Psalm 146; Nehemiah 9:6*
- ✓ Their Perspective: He **Controls** Everything & Has a **Purpose** for Everything  
*Psalm 2:1-2 Colossians 1:16; 2:10; Acts 2:23*
- ✓ Their **Petition**
  - Take Note **of Their Threats** *Psalm 10:13-14*
  - Give Us **Boldness & Courage** *Acts 4:20;*
  - Do More **Miracles, Signs & Wonders**  
*Mark 3:14-15; 16:17-18*

### **GOD'S ANSWER TO THEIR PRAYERS**

- ✓ It Was **Impactful** *Isaiah 64:1-8*
- ✓ There Was a Fresh Infilling of the Spirit
- ✓ There Was an Immediate Response *Acts 14:3; 19:8*

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“A Prayer Meeting Like No Other!”

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November 22, 2015 A.M. Service

They returned to their fellowship (perhaps they had already been praying for them and their release – How do we know that? [Acts 12:5](#))

What do men of courage do after facing difficult moments – run and hide? No way – they go back to their Church Family and do what they had always done. This is why they were men of courage.

Because of their...

### **Their Pattern**

✓ **They Shared Together** Their shared their lives together – not just attending “church” together, but doing life together.

✓ **They Prayed Together**

“Too often today, believers gather for prayer as though attending a concert or a party. There is little sense of urgency and danger because most of us are comfortable in our Christian walk. If more of God's people were witnessing for Christ in daily life, there would be more urgency and blessing when the church meets for prayer.” Weirsbe

In Unity – In one accord – same page

[Matthew 18:19](#) There is no greater sense of unity than we come and pray together and ask the Lord to put us on the same page! Have you experienced some of those moments. Oh that Petal FBC would be like the early church and pray together in unity! And because of their prayer and the unity of their prayer – the Lord was pleased to answer it and does so in a powerful way! Division hinders the church and robs us of the spiritual power we so desperately need!

### **Their Praying**

✓ **Their Praise - He Created Everything**

Creator - You who made the heaven, earth, and the sea, and everything in them & even us! Perhaps quoting or referencing [Psalm 146:6](#) and a pattern of praying like that in [Nehemiah 9:6](#)

✓ **Their Perspective - He Controls Everything & Has a Purpose for Everything**

Quotes from the OT [Psalm 2:1-2](#) & [Colossians 1:16; 2:10; Acts 2:23](#)  
Prayed the Word of God

Then expounded upon that, or related to their current situation  
Herod, Pontius Pilate, Gentiles and people of Israel raged against  
Christ – The Word Lord - Master (We are your bond servants)

“True prayer is not telling God what to do, but asking God to do His will in us and through us. It means getting God's will done on earth, not man's will done in heaven.” Weirsbe

**Professed Their Trust in God’s Sovereignty** - The recognition of the fact He was the sovereign Lord they were doing whatever your hand had made to occur (human responsibility still exists remember, but God is in control of all things). It wasn’t some fatalism but instead a great faith and deep trust in the Lord and that He was in control and would take care of it in everyway possible! **“Nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer except that which lies outside the will of God.”** Again it didn’t mean that the disciples didn’t understand that they had a part to play, they did! They understood the balance of **Augustine's wise words, "Pray as though everything depends on God, and work as though everything depended on you."**

✓ **Their Petition**

• **Take Note** [Psalm 10:13-14](#)

Hear or take note **of their threats** - The Lord loves to hear our hearts – He already knows, not as if the Lord didn’t know – but He invites us to bring our hearts and requests to Him.

• **Give Us** [Acts 4:20](#)

**Boldness and courage** to continue to speak The Word, that it would only continue and go forth even further. (Not so they would feel better, not be scared, not be worried, speak more carefully as not to offend anyone!)

Don’t request deliverance, for God to deal with their enemies, to remove the people from office, nor for protection but instead for power, for God to deal with and give us even more boldness and more courage to proclaim the Word of God to those who need to hear it! **“Do not pray for easy lives,” wrote Phillips Brooks. “Pray to be stronger men and women. Do not pray for tasks equal to**

your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks."

- **Do More** [Mark 3:14-15; 16:17-18](#)

Pray for **more signs, miracles and wonders** to be done through Jesus so that people would continue to see the power of God on display. They weren't satisfied –well, Lord we need a break or You've done enough, no way – Lord we want you to do even more – I wonder if our prayer is the same! [Isaiah 64:1-8](#)

(Yet in doing this would again bring persecution upon them because that is what got them in trouble in the first place but also would bring people into the kingdom!)

By the way, the Lord wants to do more – He is no less powerful now than He was then. The problem is many of God's people have lost their power because they have stopped praying to the sovereign God. [Dr. R.A. Torrey, the noted evangelist and educator, said, "Pray for great things, expect great things, work for great things, but above all - pray."](#)

### **God's Answer to Their Prayer**

He answers their prayers in a specific way because their prayers were not ultimately about their needs or desires but instead it was for the glory of God and His name to be made great!

- ✓ **It Was Impactful** [Isaiah 64:1-8](#)

The place was shaken!! Literally the Bible indicates that somehow the presence of God and His answer caused them to experience a shaking – of the building, of the room, whatever! Wow, wow, wow! Wouldn't we pray for the same thing as Isaiah did?

- ✓ **There Was a Fresh Infilling of the Spirit**

They were filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit once again in a fresh and a real way. This wasn't Pentecost again, but yet as the same for us a fresh sense and awareness of the Spirit of God in their lives!

- ✓ **There Was an Immediate Response**

[Acts 14:3; 19:8](#) The Disciples continued speaking to the Word of God with boldness, with a fresh sense of the boldness and confidence in the Lord.