

How to Pray With Power Acts 4:23-33

Learning from the Apostles

1. What not to do first

Acts 4:23 (HCSB) ²³ After they were released, they went to their own people and reported everything the chief priests and the elders had said to them.

2. Instead look to God

Acts 4:24–28 (HCSB) ²⁴ When they heard this, they all raised their voices to God and said, “Master, You are the One who made the heaven, the earth, and the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵ You said through the Holy Spirit, by the mouth of our father David Your servant: **Why did the Gentiles rage and the peoples plot futile things? ²⁶ The kings of the earth took their stand and the rulers assembled together against the Lord and against His Messiah.** ²⁷ “For, in fact, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, assembled together against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your plan had predestined to take place.

3. Be cautious not to pray simply for your benefit

Acts 4:29 (HCSB) ²⁹ And now, Lord, consider their threats, and grant that Your slaves may speak Your message with complete boldness,

4. But pray according to His will

Acts 4:29–30 (HCSB) ²⁹ And now, Lord, consider their threats, and grant that Your slaves may speak Your message with complete boldness, ³⁰ while You stretch out Your hand for healing, signs, and wonders to be performed through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”

- A. They prayed for power to express God’s Word
- B. They prayed for power to extend God’s Hand
- C. They prayed for power to exalt God’s Son

Acts 4:31–33 (HCSB) ³¹ When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak God’s message with boldness. ³² Now the large group of those who believed were of one heart and mind, and no one said that any of his possessions was his own, but instead they held everything in common. ³³ And the apostles were giving testimony with great power to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on all of them.