

The Church That Prays Together Shakes Together

Scripture:

Acts 4:23-33 “And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. ²⁴So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: “Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, ²⁵who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: ‘Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? ²⁶The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together Against the LORD and against His Christ.’ ²⁷“For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. ²⁹Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ³⁰by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” ³¹And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. ³²Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. ³³And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.”

Introduction:

The most important compliment any church can receive is that it is a praying church. Without prayer there is no effective evangelism, no church growth, a deficit in spirituality and no service to the believer or the community. Without prayer there is no spiritual power.

When the early church got together to pray, there was a release of the power of God. There was a shaking, the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to witness with great boldness. What was it that brought this kind of result?

I. They were united in prayer.

A. “They raised their voices to God with one accord.” (vs. 24)

Matthew 18:19-20 “*Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.*”

B. People need to understand the role prayer has in their lives.

Andrew Murray wrote, “Most churches think their members are gathered into one simply to take care of and build up each other. They know not that God rules the world by the prayers of His saints; that prayer is the power by which Satan is conquered; that by prayer the church on earth has disposal of the powers of the heavenly world.”

(With Christ in the School of Prayer, P. 113)

II. The content of prayer that shakes the church.

A. It is centered and focused on God. (vs. 24)

1. We gain proper perspective by focusing on God rather than our circumstances.
2. Remember the Lord’s Prayer. It starts with “Our Father”.

B. It remembers past blessings and victories that came out of dire circumstances.

1. The people gathered against Jesus.
2. Herod and Pilot turned him over to be crucified.
3. On the third day, He rose from the dead.

- C. God ordained petitions are made.
1. God give us boldness to witness.
 - a. This is a prayer according to God's will.
Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
 - b. This is simply a prayer to be what we are.
 2. Let us see people healed in your name.
Mark 16:15-18 "And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷And these signs will follow those who believe: in My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."
 3. Grant that our ministry be accompanied with signs and wonders.

III. A praying church gets a shaking.

- A. Their prayer meeting tuned into a Holy Ghost revival.
Luke 11:13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"
- B. They became bold in their witness.
- C. They were drawn together in greater unity.
 1. They began to see the needs of one another.
 2. They began to share with one another.
 3. They had become a church with both a vision for the world and a vision for the church.