



Faith Family Discipleship

Prayer: The Fuel for Faith Family Discipleship

Acts 4:23-31

Main Idea: Prayer is the fuel for the faith family as it focuses us on God's character, God's Word and God's power.

Over this last month we have looked at several keys to Faith Family Discipleship. First we learned that we are called to be a Faith Family. Second we discussed the mission of our Faith Family, which is discipleship in a multi-generational setting, through integrity based relationships. Last week we dove into the supremacy of scripture as the standard by which the Faith Family is discipled, and this week we are focusing on the necessity of prayer. It has been said that the only time power comes before prayer is in the dictionary, and a quick reading through the book of Acts will affirm this truth. But for the Faith Family, prayer helps to focus us on three key things; God's character, God's Word, and God's power.

Prayer Focuses the Faith Family Around God's Sovereignty (vv. 23–24)

- a. The Faith Family should join together and lift their voices together (23-24)**
- b. Prayer Begins With God's Character (24)**



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Acts chapters 3 & 4 tell a great story of the powerful name of Jesus healing a crippled man outside the temple through Peter and John. It also tells of their powerful defense of Christ before the Sanhedrin and the warning they were given to not speak or teach of Jesus ever again. Peter and John's response was legendary, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." If that doesn't make you want to run through a brick wall nothing will. The Jewish ruling council threatened them more and let them go. But where did they go? Did they run and hide? Did they leave the country? No! They went back to their faith family and prayed. Why? Because in the lives of believers, the Faith Family is our support and prayer should be our first response not our last resort! Prayer focuses us on two very important truths. First it acknowledges that God is Sovereign, and second it acknowledges our dependence on God and not ourselves. Prayer fuels the faith family by focusing us on God's character.

1. What are some common excuses people give as to why they don't pray?
2. Why do we pray to God? Seriously think about this question, why do we pray to God?
3. If God was not sovereign, what good would it do to pray to God? What is it about the character of God that leads us to pray to him? How has God shown his character to you through your prayer life?



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Prayer Focuses the Faith Family on God's Word (vv. 25–28)

- a. We should interpret our current situations through the lens of Scripture. (25-27)**
- b. We See God's Hand in Everything (28)**

When the early believers turned to the Lord in prayer here in chapter 4 they quoted a section from Psalm 2. They looked at their situation, the circumstances around them and they interpreted those circumstances through the lens of scripture. They could see through scripture that the Lord, in his sovereignty, had a plan. The Lord was not caught off guard by those who opposed the anointed one, he was not surprised by the High Priest rejection of Christ, or Pilot and Herod's rulings. No, through the lens of scripture the early church could see God's hand in all of these things. Even persecution of the saints can be part of God's plan for his glory. The early Faith Family saw the importance of praying through scripture and applying scripture in their daily lives. Our Faith Family must follow this example and allow our times of prayer to focus us on God's Word.

1. When God's Word tells us to hide his Word in our hearts, why should we do that? How often has the Lord brought scripture to your mind when you are praying to him? Why do you think he brings those verses to your mind?
2. Is praying through scripture important? What is the value of praying through scripture?



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3. How has God used scripture in your prayer life to reveal that he is still in control when everything seems to be falling down around you?

Prayer Focuses the Faith Family on God's Power (vv. 29–31)

- a. They Ask for Boldness, Not Safety (v. 29)**
- b. They Ask for God's Power to Be Displayed (v. 30)**
- c. God Responds (v. 31)**

If prayer acknowledges God's sovereignty, then it also implies that he is omnipotent, meaning that he is all powerful. Prayer is the means by which we plug into our spiritual power source. I love the prayer of this early Faith Family. They ask the Lord to grant them boldness, not safety. And because God is all powerful he can grant that boldness. They ask for the Lord to demonstrate his power, for all to see, and for Jesus to be glorified. And an amazing thing happens, God responds. He shakes the very place they were praying, demonstrating God's power, but it did not end there. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke the word of God with boldness. Prayer focuses the Faith Family on God's Power, not our own.

1. When times get hard are we more likely to pray for safety or boldness? Faith Family Discipleship is about training one another to be faithful and bold, why is that so hard?
2. What are some practical ways for us to pray for God's power to be revealed today to glorify Christ? How does Faith Family Discipleship reflect this desire to see God's mission move forward?



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3. What are some examples for your lives where God moved when you focused on prayer?