

THE POWER OF A PRAYING CHURCH

The Acts Series #5

August 16th, 2026

TEXT: Acts 4:31; 5:17-21A; 27-32

CONSIDER THIS: One of the difficulties in applying the Bible to our own situation is bridging a 2,000-year gap and major cultural differences. But while some things change, many things remain the same, including the challenge of living for Jesus Christ in a fallen world. The success of the first church came because they were bold, but that boldness did not come easily or naturally. It came because of **THE POWER OF A PRAYING CHURCH**. Christian, are you a bold witness for Jesus Christ?

I. THE PRAYER FOR BOLDNESS

NOTE: Boldness for Christ is not about using words to steamroll over people while not caring about their feelings. It is about speaking God's truth without compromise and doing so out of a love for God, a love for truth, and a love for people.

- A) In Acts 4:23-31 the church prayed in response to the threats directed against them (4:17-21).
- B) They did not ask for a change of circumstances (although that is not wrong), they asked for boldness to speak of Christ in the middle of their circumstances (4:29).

"Dear Father, You are in control of all things, for You created everyone and everything. Please empower the people of Grace Community Church to speak Your truth to our families, friends, co-workers, neighbors and classmates. May our love for You, for truth, and for others be strong enough to overcome our fears and timidity. Please save the people we know just as You have saved us. By Your grace and the power of the Holy Spirit within us, may we joyfully make Christ known. Amen."

II. THE ANSWERED PRAYER

- A) God gave the church a spirit of boldness to speak His Word (see Acts 4:31).
- B) Remember, these were ordinary people, just like us (Mark 4:37-41; Matthew 26:56).
- C) Yes, the Holy Spirit strengthened them, but they were also bold because of what it means that Jesus is alive (Acts 1:1-3; 2:32; 3:14-15; 5:29-32).

- D) Even in the face of persecution and the martyrdom of Stephen, the early church kept speaking truth (Acts 8:1-4).
- E) Loving Jesus puts things in the right perspective (Acts 5:40-42)

Christian, you believe God raised Jesus from the dead, you believe Jesus is with you, that He is interceding for you, is preparing a place for you, will take you to be with Him forever, and that He can save others through the information (the gospel message) that you possess. Through God's power, which is at work within you, tell others.

III. WHEN TRUTH IS TOUGH

KEY: If you were a doctor and knew your patient had a potentially deadly cancer, would you withhold that information so as not to upset him? Every unbeliever you know is dying, yet you know how he/she can have eternal life.

- A) The early church told tough truths. The leaders and people of Israel had murdered their own Messiah even though he had proven who He was (Acts 2:22-23; 3:13-15). The message to people who thought of themselves as being **VERY GOOD**, was "You have acted wickedly and will answer to God unless you repent. You are under His judgement and cannot fix it." These new Christians stood to lose much (John 9:18-23; 12:42-43). But nothing is more important than truth!
- B) Today, in America, we are living in times such as Isaiah 5:20. Part of our message needs to include I Corinthians 6:9-11. Many churches, feeling great cultural pressure, have chosen to excuse or stay silent about sins that are bringing coming judgement (Colossians 3:5-6). We need to heed the words of Jesus in Luke 6:26.

"You shall not abort an unborn child or murder an infant"
The Didache, an early document for discipling Christians
from around 100 A.D.

The gospel of Jesus is such beautiful **GOOD NEWS** precisely because our lost condition without Him is such **BAD NEWS**. When we minimize the bad news, we deceive people and keep the church weak. God calls us to something far better.

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