

Empowered By The Spirit: Pray for Boldness

Acts 4:23-31

Pastor Paul Armitage

November 1, 2015

The early Church experienced great opposition to their message. In light of this opposition and persecution, the Church pressed forward in bold ways.

Instead of retreating, the Church recognized who God was, placed their confidence and hope in His abilities and sought Him out in prayer.

As they prayed, they moved ahead in the power of the Holy Spirit ...
and we can do the same.

When you are overwhelmed, pressed, pressured, or experiencing opposition, remember how the early Church responded:



The believers **prayed** together.

Acts 4:24

The believers prayed for **boldness**.

Acts 4:29

"Bold prayers honor God & God honors bold prayers."

~ Mark Batterson

God **answers** prayer.

Acts 4:31

When you face opposition from a friend, family member, the government, or a stranger, pray this simple prayer:

"Lord, help me love others.

Help me to persevere in the face of this opposition.

I know that You are faithful and good.

Help me be bold and seek to honor You."

Pray Boldly!

By now you have discovered that all roads do not lead to God, and life is not as simple as you once thought. For those who are at this crossroad, the Bible offers a new direction, one filled with purpose, fulfillment, and acceptance. The steps are simple:

1. **Recognize that you're a sinner.**

You must admit your spiritual need. *"There is none righteous, no, not one."* (Romans 3:10). We can't make excuses or blame others for our actions. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* (Romans 3:23).

2. **Recognize that Jesus Christ died on the cross for you.**

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God..." (1 Peter 3:18). Jesus paid the price for your sin. The apostle Paul said, *"...the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* (Galatians 2:20).

3. **Repent of your sins.**

The word "repent" means "to change your direction." The Bible tells us, *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."* (Acts 3:19). God commands us to repent. You must be willing to turn away from the things that displease God.

4. **Accept Jesus as your Savior.**

Jesus said, *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."* (Matthew 11:28). It is essential to come to Jesus just as you are. Don't try to "clean up your life" before you come to God. Instead, receive Him and allow Him to do the "cleansing." Jesus said, *"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, And the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."* (John 6:37).

An audio copy of today's worship service is available on CD by request at the table near our Welcome Center. Listen to sermons and access: sermon notes, current information, event details, online registrations, contact listings, forms, and much more from our website, NorthMarChurch.com, and our church app. Our free church app, North-Mar Church, is available in the App Store, Google Play, and Windows Store.