

PRAYING TOGETHER

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of our father David: "'Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against His anointed one.' Indeed, Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what Your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." After they had prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of God boldly.

Acts 4:23-31 (NIV)

When We Pray Together...

1. There is EXPONENTIAL power in our prayers.

After they had prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. (vs 31a)

"Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Matthew 18:19-20

2. God STRENGTHENS the church.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of God boldly. (vs 31b)

And with great power the apostles were given their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and great grace was upon them all.

Acts 4:33

3. God gives us WISDOM.

And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."

Acts 1:24-25

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives.

Colossians 1:9 (NIV)

4. The UNITY of the church increases.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.

Acts 2:42-46 (NIV)

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common... There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceed of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Acts 4:32; 34-35

5. God's people are COMMISSIONED and SENT.

And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Acts 14:23

Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Acts 13:3

6. People are SAVED!

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:47b (NIV)

But the Word of God increased and multiplied.

Acts 12:24

The So What...

- 1) Am I being obedient in my prayer life?
- 2) Am I committed to praying in unity with my church family?
- 3) Action item: Gather together with at least 2 others and PRAY!

Closing Truth: (May this be our prayer goal!)

While they were praying, the place where they were meeting trembled and shook. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak God's Word with fearless confidence.

Acts 4:31 (MSG)