

# ACTS

## CHAPTER 4:23-31

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX 162

TITLE:

## “Church,” Jesus Style

THEME:

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.**“

## Chapter 4, A Healthy & Strong “Church, Jesus Style”

### A Miraculous Transformation...

We are impressed with the disciples, now apostles,  
with their understanding of the scriptures.

### All of this growth and all of the effectiveness...

*can be followed back to one life-changing event...*

## THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Have you had your day of Pentecost ?

*John 15:26*

*“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, **He will testify (to bear forth the record) of Me***

If we are ever going to be faithful, *Victorious, Effectual, Intelligent* Christians... It will be by the “Coming Upon” Experience or the “Filling” of the Holy Spirit

## Warning!

You are about to enter a high-speed, turbulent roller-coaster, if you have a heart condition there’s an exit provided just ahead

## C.H.P.

Inspection Ahead

- Prayer, • The Word, • Unity

---

Last week;

*They had Just been Arrested and Questioned about they’re message and it’s power...*

Peter, before them all, made the most  
“wonderful or offensive “ declaration ever !!!

Acts 4:12

**"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under  
heaven given among men by which we must be saved."**

We Come to;

The Three Essential Vitamins for a Healthy Church  
“the following is your recommended daily allowance”

**1.) PRAYER , IN FRONT of the Church vv. 23-24**

**“all that the chief priest and elders had said to them”**

*What They HAD said would have caused many to faint!  
How Could they be so bold & so confident*

Verse 24

**“Please get us out of this situation...No  
prepare us for it”**

---

They prayed,

**“Lord, You Are God, You made Heaven & Earth  
& the Seas and all that is in them”**

**Lord** GRK *despotes (des-pot'-ace) (eng. "despot")*  
Ruler Absolute. THE Supreme Master. (THE ONE, ALL)

**God** GRK *theos (theh'-os) theology, or theologian*  
THE Supreme Divinity. THE one magistrate, THE Exceeding, God.

**Who Made** GRK *poieo (poy-eh'-o) Creator God*  
*the one who makes. the designer and cause,*  
*the one who ordains, executes, performs.*

**That's a Shot in Faith !!!**

Jesus Prayed Like That...

Matthew 11:25

**At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,**

**Hebrews 11:6**  
**Without faith it is impossible to please Him,**  
**for he who comes to God must believe that He is, GOD !!!**

Turn To,

**Nehemiah 9:5-6**  
And the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said: "Stand up and bless the LORD your God forever and ever! "Blessed be Your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise! You alone are the LORD; you have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

Philip Brooks wrote

"don't pray for an easier life, pray to be stronger men and women of God. Don't pray for tasks equal to your powers, but for powers equal to the tasks"

They *Saw* The Heart of Man.

*Intimidation*

But They *KNEW* The Heart of God

*Assurance*

**Psalm 118:6**  
**The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?**  
**Proverbs 29:25**  
**The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe. (liberated) perfect love cast out fear**

*"Whenever a Christian becomes comfortable,  
their prayer life becomes history"*

*"Whenever a church becomes comfortable,  
the prayer meetings become history"*

If God is ever going to rise up leaders for this ministry,  
it will be from among those who are faithful to the prayer meetings

---

**THE GREAT LIST OF CHRISTIAN ARMOR**  
*The Last Touch to the Soldiers Armor is having prayer in his tank*

**Ephesians 6:18**  
**PRAYING ALWAYS with ALL PRAYER and supplication in the Spirit,**  
**being watchful (ON GUARD)**

## 2.) The Word BEHIND *the Church* vv. 25-28

The word of God was known *and understood by the disciples.*

They understood the persecution to be against God the Father  
and Jesus His Son (**not themselves**)

### Taking it Personal

Mark 4:16-17

"These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; Mark 4:17 "and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble.

You Can Stand Firm *because of the Bible, God's word.*

Man shall not live by "bread alone" (grk; In & Out, Double, Double)  
but by every WORD of God

Matthew 24:35

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

We Can Trust His Word.

Psalm 18:30

As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is proven

Paul Praises the Church at Berea, They knew this

Acts 17:11

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with *all readiness of mind*, and *searched the scriptures daily*, whether those things were so.

The Word of God Purifies Us;

Psalm 119:11

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. a holy church

Verse 25

Rage *HEB ragash (raw-gash') an equestrian term meaning to fight the reigns, or to throw off the rider.*

## Verse 26

they know enough Bible to *apply it and relate it* to their own lives...

“Hey, what’s happening to us is  
what was spoken of in the word”

**and so they prayed using the Bible;**

**1 John 5:14-15**

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. :15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

*Romans 15:4*

*For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*

## Verse 27

There’s no one else left !  
“we’re gathered together”

*together*     **GRK** *sunago (soon-ag'-o)*  
to convene; or to join ranks, as to seek relief.

they all sought to unite together with their differences,  
to eliminate the threat of Christ.

---

**Are You Against Jesus Today?**

*If you are, You do not have **one single,**  
**one legitimate, one intelligent reason !!!***

*You have not **one logical argument***

---

## Verse 28

God knew all along what man would do to His Son

**3.) The Unity     INSIDE    of the Church     vv. 29-31**

*The Young Church was Praying, & Studying the Word  
and the result of it was unity among the believers.*

You will always know when Unity is present,  
Because Jesus will be the only one in sight!

## Ask Yourself,

- “How does this glorify Jesus”
  - “How does Jesus feel about this,”
  - “What would Jesus do right now”

Verse 29

**“They didn’t ask for protection, they asked for power”**

*Augustine said;*

“Pray as though everything depended upon God,  
and work as though everything depended upon you!”

**We believe in the Sovereignty of God, and the responsibility of man.**

The emphasis is the hand of God *in the life of the church*

*the church seeking to BUILD with 3 essentials, will not fail, the church will not die, Jesus prays !*

Jesus’ Request Fulfilled,

John 14:26

But the **Comforter**, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall **teach** you all things, and bring all things to your **remembrance**, whatsoever I have said unto you. (they were comforted)

Hebrews 7:25

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

John 17:15

“I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

Verse 31

“They were assembled together”

Like the enemies of God... BUT NOT IN UNITY

Verse 24

“with one accord”

Amos 3:3

Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

**Psalm 133:1-2**

**Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! :2 It is like the precious oil (HOLY SPIRIT) upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, (THE PRIEST) running down on the edge of his garments (HIS TOTAL LIFE).**

**Romans 16:17-18a**

Now I beseech (beg) you, brethren, mark them (aim at or to target them) which cause divisions (separations & groups) and offenses (obstacles) contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid (turn them out, cast them off).

**:18 For they are such who do not serve the Lord but their own bellies. (self-justifying)**

Mark Those who cause Division, pain. who cut with the tongue, who use scripture to kill rather than to heal. Mark them.

Who's mouth is like open graves... they stink !!!

**You can always smell where they've been. it's toxic**

**Proverbs 6:19**

The seven things God hates  
"one who sows discord among brethren."

**Proverbs 11:9**

The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor.

**James 1:26**

If anyone among you thinks he is a Christian, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's Christianity is useless.

---

**Division** in a church will always hinder prayer  
and it robs the church of power and effectiveness

---