

**“World-Shaking Prayer”** (from the series- “Mighty Acts”)  
August 13, 2017

**Acts 4:23-36**

- When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He taught them to **aim high** (not just pray to “get by”)—breakthrough (not “get through”).
- This passage is a reflection of Jesus’ way of praying (*i.e., for Heaven to breakthrough as His will is done on the earth*).
- The fruit of this kind of prayer is momentous.

NOTE: Peter and John threatened the religious status quo by a “**notable miracle**” (Acts 4:16)—of a lame man, impaired for over 40 years. As a result, they were “**commanded not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus**” (Acts 4:18).

**CORE:** Our prayers impact world affairs!

**1. WORLD-SHAKING PRAYER. (v. 23-30)**

- Starts with “Awe”:
  - Who He is (*“You are God, who made heaven and the earth”*)
  - What He has purposed to accomplish
  - Two things result from revelation of His heart:
    - We don’t BEG (we ask, as daughters/sons)
    - We don’t LIMIT (NOTE: Disciples in the storm said- *“Don’t You care—that we will drown?”* (Doubting both His love & His power)
- Doesn’t ignore the problems:
  - Faith does not ignore real issues—it simply puts them in perspective (*i.e., Romans 4:19*)
  - Having just seen two of their leaders beaten and imprisoned, they responded: *“Lord, look on their threats.”* (v. 29) from those who were *“against your holy Servant Jesus”* (27).
- Focuses on His purposes (not the enemy’s schemes):
  - *“Do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.”* (v. 28).
- Makes bold requests:
  - Grant us more boldness to speak your word
    - *“Boldness”- unreserved; cheerful courage; a divine enablement—much more than a human quality or ability*
  - Grant us more signs and wonders and healing
    - 1 Cor. 14- *“Desire earnestly—and ask for spiritual gifts”*
    - More than merely being “open to them”
    - *“You don’t have—because you don’t ask God”* (James 4:2-3)

## 2. WORLD-SHAKING RESULTS. (v. 31-37)

“Surprisingly, the Christian faith today is perceived as disconnected from the supernatural world—a dimension that the vast majority of outsiders believe can be accessed and influenced.” --David Kinnaman, *unchristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity...and Why It Matters*

**#1- SUPERNATURAL CLIMATE CHANGE-** *“the place...was shaken” (Acts 4:31)*  
*“Those in whom the Spirit comes to live are God’s new Temple. They are, individually and corporately, places where heaven and earth meet.”--N.T. Wright, *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense**

**#2- SPIRITUAL UPGRADE-** *“they were ALL filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 4:31)*  
*NOTE: There’s always MORE—Acts 2 was just the beginning! It’s not that we “leak”—it’s that He pours! “I was all the time tugging and carrying water. But now I have a River that carries me.” -D.L. Moody, *The Overcoming Life**

**#3- SUPERNATURAL BOLDNESS-** *“They spoke the word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:31)* *“A cheerful courage; forthright fearlessness”*

**#4- VIBRANT UNITY-** *“Of one heart and one soul” (Acts 4:32).* **Born out of honoring, receiving from, and submitting to one another!**

**#5- GREAT POWER-** *“Gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 4:33).* **Confirming signs and wonders as a normal part of life. “GREAT GRACE (charis)”—the “operations of the power of God”**

**#6- SUPERNATURAL GENEROSITY-** *“No one among them lacked anything” (Acts 4:34).* **They were baptized into a spirit of sacrifice and generosity.** *“The Holy Spirit is in you and he wants out. He is in you as a river, not a lake.” --Bill Johnson, *Manifesto for a Normal Christian Life**

### CLOSING THOUGHTS:

- **He’s raising our expectations** (NOTE: One of the words for “faith” is translated *“expectation”*—*“be it unto you according to your expectations”*).
- **He’s calling us to a lifestyle of prayer.** (*Where prayer is not our “last resort”—but our dwelling place!*)
- **He’s moving us to cry out, speak up, stand up, and call upon Him—** refusing to back down, tone down, or dumb down our requests—**boldly asking for even MORE BOLDNESS!**