

Sunday School Lesson for the Month of January, 2023

A Praying Church

Acts 4:31

Sunday, January 1, 2023

Complimentary descriptions of a church often include these words – evangelistic, spiritual, servant. All of these are accurate, yet it is impossible to be that kind of church unless the people pray! Prayer is basic for evangelism, growth, spirituality, and service. The first chapters of Acts describe a growing, vibrant, witnessing body of Christians. This vitality came from their prayer life. Acts 4 is an inside look at a praying church.

Peter and John were used of the Lord to heal a man “lame from birth” Acts 3:2. The healing created interest and a large crowd gathered to hear Peter preach. This annoyed the religious leaders and in jealousy, they arrested the apostles, kept them in custody overnight, threatened them, and then ultimately released them. Peter and John went to church and reported their experience.

A time of prayer followed:

I. A Church United In Prayer.

“They lifted their voices together to God” [Acts 4:24]. Jesus said there is power in public united prayer (Matt. 18:19-20). Prayer is an experience of the family of faith. Strong and growing churches are united in prayer. Paul believed in the power of united prayer (Rom. 15:30; 2 Cor. 1:11).

Sunday, January 8, 2023

II. The Content Of The Churches Prayer.

The Jerusalem church gathered in prayer illustrates the content of vibrant prayer.

- A. It first focused on God (**Acts 4:24**). Turning one’s face toward the Lord has a way of restoring proper perspective on the problems of everyday life.
- B. The word gave assurance and guidance (**Acts 4:25-26**). This prayer includes a quotation from Psalm 2:1-2. The word of God offers content for our prayer life.

Sunday, January 15, 2023

- C. Past blessings and victories are recalled (**Acts 4:27-28**). The Jerusalem church remembered the dark days surrounding Jesus' crucifixion and how the cross became God's exclamation mark at the resurrection. God's faithfulness in the past is assurance of his faithful work now.
- D. Petitions were made for specific needs (**Acts 4:29**). The church prayed for boldness in the witness of their leaders. They sought a display of God's power in the hope of turning many to the Lord Jesus.

Sunday, January 22, 2023

III. A Praying Church Gets Answers.

Luke records the exciting conclusion to the church prayer meeting.

- A. They were filled with the Holy Spirit (**Acts 4:31**). The church is a spiritual body and needs the power of the Holy Spirit to do the work of God. Jesus promised to give the Holy Spirit if we ask (**Luke 11:13**).
- B. They spoke the work of God with boldness (**Acts 4:31**). The immediate blessing of the spirit-filling is bold witnessing. Christians need the power of the Holy Spirit to tell people about Christ.

Sunday, January 29, 2023

- C. The signs of a spiritual body abounded (**Acts 4:32-35**). The result of a praying church is a united body – “one in heart and mind.” A spirit of benevolent sharing prevailed and their needs were met.

The desire of every church member should be that our church will be a praying church.