

Accessing the Power of God
Acts 4:23-31

Two keys to accessing the power of God?

1. The Holy Spirit

God has given us the gift of His Spirit to empower us to live the Christian life that God calls us to live.

"Without the Spirit of God, we can do nothing. We are as ships without wind. We are useless." – Charles Spurgeon

2. Prayer

God has given us the gift of prayer to access His power.

"Paul recognizes that the true power for effective ministry and life transformation comes from God in response to prayer." – D.A. Carson

I. Power for Living the Christian Life Comes from the Holy Spirit

II. Power for Living the Christian Life is Most Often Accessed through Prayer (Acts 4:23-31).

A. Prayer Should Be Focused on God.

Aspects of God's sovereignty:

- God created everything (v.24).
- God controls everything (vv. 25-27).
- God has a purpose for everything (v.28).

"Prayer is not exclusively or primarily about getting things from God; it is about enjoying and growing in intimacy and fellowship with God."
- John Hammett

"Effective prayer is the fruit of a relationship with God, not a technique for acquiring His blessings."
- D.A. Carson

"It is remarkable that these Christians take five verses to tell God who he is, and two verses to ask what they want from him. Now God does not need to be told who he is. But Christians need to know who he is—and precisely in their prayers they need to know and confess that he is the kind of God who can and will answer their prayers. In essence what they are doing in verses 24–28 is hallowing God's name before they pray, 'Thy kingdom come.'" – John Piper

B. Prayer Should Focused on God's Purposes (vv.29-30).

1. They didn't ask God to rescue them from their enemies

They said: *look upon their threats*" (v.29).

2. They did ask God to enable them to be bold witnesses:

And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus. (vv.29-30)

C. Prayer is Answered with God's Power (v.31).

And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. (v.31)

Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! (Mt.7:9-11)

A - Adoration

C – Confession

T – Thanksgiving

S – Supplication

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