

PART 3: Rooted In Prayer

DATE: 09-03-2023

START

Prayer is a foundational action in a person's growing spiritual journey. But it seems that questions swirl around what prayer is and how to pray.

- What is difficult for you when it comes to prayer?
- What questions do you have about prayer?
- What prayer habits have you discovered that will be helpful to share?

It is important to remember that prayer is a conversation between you and God the Father. Express your heart. Share your thoughts. And keep your eyes focused on a God who is sovereign and present.

READ

[Acts 4:23-31](#); (NIV)

23 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. 24 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. 25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: " 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 26 The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.' 27 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. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. 29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 31 After they 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.

THINK

The go-to action for the first church was prayer. Throughout the book of Acts, you see the first church constantly and consistently focusing on God for their strength, peace, direction, and wisdom.

- Is God bigger than your problems? (Remember: The sovereignty of God will determine the size of your prayers.)
- Acts 4:29 includes this simple statement, "Consider their threats." What is threatening the church today?
- Prayer was focused on the mission God had placed upon the church. Who do you need to pray for that desperately needs the hope of Jesus? Who do you need to pray for that is running away from God?

PRAY

"God, you are Sovereign. Enable me to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand and do the unimaginable."

ACT

Commit to being rooted in prayer. It is the one action that keeps you connected to God. You will hear his voice and experience his life-giving presence.

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