

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for August 8, 2010

“Peter in Prayer”
Acts 4:23-31

1. The release of the apostles (4:23)

a. Their relationships

When people are released from confinement they go to those who they feel the closest to.

b. Their report

2. The request by the apostles (4:24-30)

This is one of about 650 different prayers recorded in the Bible. These prayers teach us:

- There is no middleman for prayer
- There is no method for prayer
- There is no measurement for prayer

a. The person of God (4:24)

It is essential that we recognize who God is when we approach Him in prayer.

b. The providence of God (4:25-28)

We learn about the inspiration of the Scripture from this quote from Psalm 2:1-2.

Psalm 2 speaks of man’s rebellion and God’s response.

The mention of Herod was recorded by Luke to emphasize the Jews’ conspiracy with the Gentiles in opposition to Christ.

The key point is men “gathered together” against the Lord, but their conspiracy ultimately served God’s purpose.

While God sovereignly predestined Christ’s opposition, the people willingly participated.

c. The petition of God (4:29-30)

Their focus of the prayer is not on the physical deliverance of themselves but on the spiritual deliverance of others.

3. The response to the apostles (4:31)

a. The shaking

Earthquakes accompanied significant events in the Bible, such as the giving of the Law and the death of Christ. The significant event here is the beginning of the persecution of the church.

b. The Spirit

Being filled with the Spirit comes from the heart attitude of being a bond-servant of Christ.

c. The speaking

Just as the filling of the Spirit did not begin at this point, the speaking with boldness did not begin at this point. However, speaking on behalf of Christ results from the filling of the Spirit of Christ.

When we yield ourselves as God's servant, we become His ambassador.

May God give us the grace to live as His servant, regardless of the earthly consequences.