

Prayer That Shook the Building  
Acts 4:23–31  
From the Outpouring to the Overturning

## INTRODUCTION

What if I told you that one prayer – just one – could shake a building – fill every heart with power – and ignite unstoppable boldness? ... I'll be honest – I used to wonder if prayer really worked ... I studied it more than almost any other subject in relationship to my faith walk ... I filled my book shelves with books about prayer ... But – the more I studied – and the more books I read – I found myself more confused than ever ... There were so many different teachings – so many conflicting opinions – and to me – prayer seemed like it should be simple ... Something you learn – something you practice – something that just simply works ... Yet, I found myself frustrated – jumping from one method to another – still lacking – real – tangible results ... Now don't get me wrong ... I would see answers here and there but nothing like I see here in Acts 4 ... Maybe you have felt the same way ... You pray and pray – only to experience little to no results.

So today – our journey has brought us to this moment in Acts 4 – where a community of believers prayed ... Their prayer is actually recorded for us – and the results of their prayer – were immediate and undeniable ... Acts 4:31 states – “After this prayer – the meeting place shook – and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit ... Then they preached the word of God with boldness.”

## TRANSITION

Now I don't know about you – but I'm pretty curious as to what kind of prayer can bring about results like that ... How about you? ... When was the last time you prayed – said amen – and the building shook ... So, let's dive in and learn how to pray – building shaking prayers

## I. Get into Spiritual Alignment

### Acts 4:23-24 New Living Translation

As soon as they were freed, - Peter and John returned to the other believers and told them what the leading priests and elders had said ... 24 When they heard the report, - - all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God (*they raised their voices to God with one mind*): - - “O Sovereign Lord, - Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them.”

Now catch this – the first thing we notice is this – once they heard the report – they didn’t panic ... They didn’t cower in fear saying, “What are we going to do now?” ... They didn’t enter into a discussion about who they were to obey – the governing authorities or God ... What did they do? ... They prayed – in unity – with one sound – in one spirit – focused upon one purpose.

Now, here is a critical key you must grasp ... Typically when this text is preached or taught – the focus is on the words spoken ... As if there is some magical incantation or have some mystical power in the exact wording ... This is where we miss it big time when it comes to prayer ... We think repeating specific words or phrases has power contained within them ... No – words are simply words ... They have meaning but no inherent impact – apart from alignment.

So – how should we view this text? ... From the perspective of Alignment ... Alignment is a purposeful connecting with your oneness to Christ ... Alignment isn’t simply repeating spiritual words or quoting Bible verses ... Alignment is entering into vibrational agreement with the indwelling Spirit ... Unity matters ... Resonance matters ... Before these believers asked for anything – they first aligned their inner being with the reality that they are one with Christ ... This is a key impartation of the Pentecostal experience – the revelation of Oneness.

They also had a united voice in their alignment ... They were all in agreement with what was being prayed ... This is the power of “They” ... They raised their voices as if it was one ... One

with each other and one with Christ ... This synchronization of mind and heart sets the foundation for alignment.

### **Practical Application**

When praying – you don't need to get louder – you need to get aligned ... You don't need to think about what to pray or have some list – as alignment allows you to pray the heart and purpose of God ... Catch this spiritual nugget - - Alignment amplifies Authority.

### **John 15:4-5 New King James Version**

Abide in Me, - and I in you. ... As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, - unless it abides in the vine, - neither can you, - unless you abide in Me. ... 5 “I am the vine, - you are the branches. ... He who abides in Me, - and I in him, - bears much fruit; - for without Me you can do nothing.

## **II. Stay Focused on God — Not the Problem vss. 24-28**

**v. 24 (Voice)** ... God, our King, - You made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything they contain.

Catch this – before they ever mentioned the persecution they were facing – they turned their complete focus upon the sovereignty of God ... Their internal alignment - directed their mental focus - upon the One Who cares for them ... This focus - allowed them to cast their cares upon Him – knowing that He cares for them.

### **1 Peter 5:7 New King James Version**

Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

This second principle seems simple – but is actually difficult to achieve – as many times the problem screams louder – than that still small voice ... You must be purposeful to stop thinking about the difficulty you are facing ... You must intentionally shift your focus toward God ... Prayer begins – not by declaring the problem – but by declaring His Presence ... These believers understood a critical key ... Before you ask God to engage in your situation – you must remind yourself – Who you are engaging with – God Almighty

## **Practical Application**

When you are about to pray – what is at the forefront of your mind – your crisis or your Creator? ... Remember – what you focus upon – you strengthen ... The more you meditate upon the problem – the more it grows in intensity ... The more you meditate upon your oneness with Christ – the more your issue will shrink ... Prayer isn't about you informing God about your situation ... It is about you aligning your spiritual consciousness with divine truth ... This is how power flows in prayer.

## **Psalm 77:11-12 New Living Translation**

But then I recall all you have done, O Lord; - - I remember your wonderful deeds of long ago ...  
12 They are constantly in my thoughts ... I cannot stop thinking about Your mighty works.

## **III. Pray into your Purpose**

### **Acts 4:29-30 New Living Translation**

And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, - your servants, - great boldness in preaching Your word ... 30 Stretch out Your hand with healing power; - may miraculous signs and wonders be done - through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.”

This is important to understand – notice what this group of believers didn't do ... They didn't curse their enemies ... They didn't pronounce judgment upon the governing authorities ... They didn't ask God for vengeance nor protection against these authorities.

Now – catch what this group of believers did do ... They prayed into their divine assignment ... They elevated their assignment above their adversity ... They asked for boldness to speak and for miracles to be released.

## **Practical Application**

Stop focusing – meditating – and rehearsing the problem – either verbally or mentally ...  
Instead - - Focus – meditate upon – and verbally rehearse your oneness with Christ and your

divine assignment ... Catch this spiritual truth ... Your power in prayer is lost – when you dwell upon those who are opposing you – or how bad the situation may be ... Stop mentally wrestling with the issue and turn your mental focus toward your oneness with Christ and unity with other like-minded believers.

These believers didn't dwell on the injustice – they focused on the mission ... They didn't spend their energy in prayer fighting people – they prayed into God's purpose ... They didn't focus on the report – they focused on God moving through them in power ... Now catch this spiritual nugget ... When they removed their eyes from the enemy and shut their ears to the enemy's report – boldness arose and fear dissolved ... This only happens when you pray from a God-centered consciousness – not a problem-centered one ... When you stop praying against your obstacles and start praying into being obedient to the mission – divine power is released.

#### **IV. When these Three Principles Align – Power is Released**

##### **Acts 4:31 (NLT)**

After this prayer, - - the meeting place shook, - - and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. ... Then they preached the word of God with boldness.

This text is not symbolic – it is a literal response to divine alignment in prayer ... The atmosphere became so charged with the mystical vibration of God's power that the building literally quaked ... This was a tangible release of power that activated their spiritual authority, - crushed fear, - enabled boldness, - and filled them once again with the Holy Spirit.

#### **Practical Application**

This type of prayer is sorely needed today ... Sadly, many of today's prayers are completely contrary to what we have discovered in our text this morning ... A reality - evidenced by the lack of results and power - in much of the modern church ... Catch this nugget: When your inner self fully aligns with the indwelling Spirit and His truth, your outer world must respond

accordingly ... When you pray from alignment, focus, and purpose, the atmosphere around you will shift in a powerfully - undeniable way.

## CONCLUSION

We've seen today that everything begins with focus — and not just any focus, - but a deliberate, - intentional shifting of our inner gaze ... **Step one is personal: you get in the Spirit** ... You quiet the noise of the outer world and become keenly aware of the Spirit's presence within you ... This is where you align your inner vibration with the Spirit's resonance, - letting every thought, - feeling, - and word - harmonize with the life of God inside you.

But it can't stop there. **Step two is as a kainos being — a new creation — you now turn your focus entirely toward God** ... You praise, you worship, you acknowledge Him as your very life ... You affirm your oneness with Him, - realizing that you live in Him, - move in Him, - and have your very being in Him ... Colossians 3 tells us to habitually set our minds on things above, not on the temporary distractions of earth ... This is the spiritual mindset that changes everything — where the problem fades into irrelevance - in the blinding light of the Creator's presence ... This is where most of the few - who truly practice faith - still miss it ... They still think God is “over there” and has to somehow come into the situation ... But when you understand there is no separation, - you stop trying to pull God in — and instead, - you let His life flow out through you.

**Finally, this process carries us into the third movement — action** ... Once you've aligned yourself and focused on God, - you step into the reality that you and God are one in purpose ... From that place of union, - you speak, - you act, - and you release the life of God - into the situation ... This is not wishful thinking; - this is prayer in action — the “I Am” in action ... And when we live like this — when the frequency within us - matches the vibration of the Spirit, - when our focus is locked on the reality of Christ within, - when our actions flow from divine union — we step into the same mystical rhythm that the early church walked in ... And

like them, - we will see buildings shake, - hearts will turn, - and the world will be turned upside down — not by might, - not by power, - but by His Spirit.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord – awaken us to who You have recreated us to be ... Awaken us to what You have placed inside of us as a new creation ... Awaken us to the truth of what it truly means to be a Kainos being – so that we may function in that manner – in order to carry out our purpose upon this earth ... As we have examined these three core principles of prayer – transform our minds – so that we may realize – what we have been taught concerning prayer was not from Your Spirit ... My desire Father – is that we would become so efficient in prayer – that we would all become as bold as lions ... That we would shift the atmosphere ever where we go ... And that others would conclude that “we have been with Jesus” ... Awaken us oh Lord – I ask in the mighty name of Jesus - Amen