

Praying for Evangelism

(Acts 4:23-31)

When reading the book of Acts, it is important to take note of just how much prayer is connected to evangelism. The early Christians understood that they were not going to be successful in their efforts to spread the gospel without prayer (Acts 4:23-24; 6:2-4; 13:1-3).

As we prepare for the Maury County fair effort and our special September 10th service at 3 PM, I think it is important that we study this carefully.

How did the early Christians pray for evangelism?

I. Together

- A. This reality pops up continually in Acts.
 - 1. They did after being imprisoned (Acts 4:23-24).
 - 2. They did it after appointing leaders (Acts 6:6-7).
 - 3. They did it during the persecution of Herod (Acts 12:5).
- B. There is great value in us following in their footsteps today.

II. With purpose

- A. They were very specific in their requests concerning evangelism (Acts 4:23-30).
 - 1. They prayed glorifying God (vs. 24).
 - 2. They prayed asking God to take notice of them (vs. 29a).
 - 3. They prayed asking God for courage (vs. 29b).
- B. Like the early Christians...
 - 1. We need to pray for courage (Acts 4:24).
 - 2. We need to pray for open doors (Colossians 4:2-4).
 - 3. We need to pray for God to be glorified (1 Corinthians 10:31).
 - 4. We need to pray for preachers (Acts 12:5; Ephesians 6:18-20)

III. With Great Confidence

- A. They prayed knowing that God was real and fully capable of both hearing and responding to their prayers (Acts 4:23-28).
 - 1. They had confidence concerning God being the creator (vs. 24).
 - 2. They had confidence concerning God's amazing record (vss. 25-28).
- B. What about us? When we pray...
 - 1. Do we really believe that God will give us courage?
 - 2. Do we really believe that God will give us boldness?
 - 3. Do we really believe that God will give us open doors?
- C. God certainly heard their appeal of His people and gave them the boldness they asked for (Acts 4:31).

Conclusion: We have to continually pray about this great work because it is serious business! It was so serious Jesus that He willing laid His life down for it (Luke 19:10).