



Bold Prayers

September 7 & 8, 2013

[Acts 4:23-31](#)

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. (Acts 4:23-31 NIV)

Consider & Discuss

1. What images come to mind when you think of church? Are they more positive or negative?
2. How would you describe the mission of God's Church in general? How would you describe the mission of Renaissance Church?
3. Read [Acts 4:23-31](#). What strikes you about this passage?
4. Why do you think they were so bold in their prayers? What suggestions do you have for how we can become more bold in our prayers without becoming presumptuous?
5. Why do you think most of our prayers are about us? Do you think that's positive, negative, or neutral? For what else do you think we should we pray?
6. What suggestions do you have for people who want to become less focused on themselves in their prayers?

Live It

1. Pray that God would work powerfully through you and through Renaissance Church in the lives of those around us.
2. Pray that God would enable you to speak his word with great boldness.
3. If you missed any of the messages this summer, watch or listen to them at www.renaissancechurch.org/weekend/.