

# “Prayer and the Mission of God” | Acts 4:23-31

Pastor Jason Matta | GLOBAL EMPHASIS WEEK | February 2, 2014

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## WARMING UP

1. Who comes to mind as being a “prayerful person”? What have you observed about that individual that causes you to think of him or her in that way?
2. Where would you put your personal prayer life on the following continuum? Why?  
duty/ritual ←————→ delight/relationship

## DIGGING IN

Three keys to unleashing the power of God for the purposes of God:

3. *Key #1: Pray together: There’s comfort in corporate prayer (v. 23-24a)*
  - What is the background to this passage? What had happened to Peter and John up to this point? (See Acts 3:1-4:22 for the context.)
  - Do you find anything intriguing about the response of their friends/fellow believers? How do you imagine yourself responding in that situation?
  - Where do you engage in “corporate prayer”? How have you experienced the comfort that comes in calling on the Lord together with other Christ followers?
4. *Key #2: Pray confidently: There’s hope in the sovereignty of God (v. 24b-30)*
  - Our prayers reflect what we think about God. If someone were to observe your prayer life, what would they conclude regarding your beliefs about God?
  - What is your understanding of the sovereignty of God? What does this mean? How does truly embracing this reality lead to confident prayer?
  - How do we often respond when trouble comes upon us? Do your prayers lean more toward demanding of/dictating to God or toward trusting God? Share a personal example.
5. *Key #3: Pray expectantly: There’s power when filled with the Spirit (v. 31)*
  - What do you suppose it may have been like when “the place in which they were gathered together was shaken”? Wow! Try to put yourself there. Talk about it.
  - The answer to the believers’ prayers didn’t involve the elimination of opposition but rather empowerment to endure. How do 1 Peter 3:13-17 and 4:12-19 speak to this issue? Are you asking God to remove you from a difficult situation rather than sustain you through it?

## BREAKING OUT

6. Put into practice what you heard preached. As you break out for prayer, do so together, confidently and expectantly. Find comfort in the family of God. Find hope in the sovereignty of God. Find power from the Spirit of God. Ask God to do something that only he could do.

