

Today's Focus:

In a Time of Crisis.... Expect Holy Spirit Empowerment

Acts 4:23-31

In a Time of Crisis.... Pray.

1. In Prayer Remember God is Sovereign - Acts 4:24

The sovereignty of God refers to the fact that God is in complete control of the universe. However, he allows us to use our free will. Humans can make genuine choices that have real consequences. God does not directly cause everything to happen, yet He does allow all that happens to happen. And, ultimately, God's will is going to be accomplished. The sovereignty of God is quite practical and has a significant impact on our daily lives.

- a. God's sovereignty removes all cause for worry - Romans 8:28
- b. God's sovereignty assures us he will help bring us to maturity - Romans 8:29-34; Galatians 3:3; Philippians 1:6.
- c. God's sovereignty affects how we make decisions.
- d. God's sovereignty impacts our sense of identity - Romans 8:1

2. In Prayer Remember God is not caught off guard by your situation – Acts 4:25-26

3. In Prayer Remember God is involved in history – Acts 4:27-28

Example of the Jews in the kingdom of Ahasuerus

4. In Prayer Ask for strength to continue your Kingdom

Assignment – Acts 4:29-30

5. After Prayer Expect Holy Spirit Empowerment – Acts 4:31

A greater measure of the Holy Spirit empowerment brings Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, and Temperance - Galatians 5:22-23

1. **Love** (agapē) is the self-sacrificing love that sent Christ to die for sinners.
2. **Joy** (chara) is a deep and abiding inner rejoicing not dependent on circumstances because it rests in God's sovereign control of all things.
3. **Peace** (eirēnē) is inner repose and quietness in spite of adverse circumstances.
4. **Longsuffering or patience** (makrothymia) is the quality of forbearance under provocation. It entertains no thoughts of retaliation when wrongfully treated.
5. **Gentleness or Kindness** (chrēstotēs) kindness or benevolence in.
6. **Goodness** (agathōsynē) is an uprightness of soul and reaching out to others to do good even when people do not deserve it.
7. **Faith or Faithfulness** (pistis) faith is moral conviction in God. Faithfulness is the quality of being trustworthy or reliable.
8. **Meekness or Gentleness** (prautēs) marks a person who is submissive to God's Word and considerate of others when discipline is needed.
9. **Temperance or Self-control** (enkrateia) is self-mastery that helps a person to curb the impulses of the flesh.

Next Steps:

- Did you pray and give your life to Jesus for the first time today? Email us at pastorneil@covenantfamilychapel.org
- Help Covenant Family Chapel reach more people by sending this message and the notes to someone.
- Visit <https://covenantfamilychapel.org> to listen to another message or listen on WFMD 930AM Radio station in Frederick on Sundays Mornings at 9:30 am and WWNL 1080AM & 103.9FM on Fridays at 3 pm in Pittsburgh (PA, OHIO, MD, and WEST VIRGINIA). Thank You

Growth Group Study Questions

For the week of May 14, 2023

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

MY EXPERIENCES

Have you encountered a crisis? How did you pray? Did it help? Share your experience.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Analyze the prayer in Acts 4:23-31, line by line.
 - a. Label the different elements such as the request, reasons, and results.
 - b. What can you learn about how to pray, especially in times of crisis?
2. In their prayer, the apostles asked for boldness to preach the word and for God to confirm the word Himself. But we are told that the results were being filled with the Holy Spirit. Why is that?
3. We learned that the apostles in their prayer recognized the sovereignty of God. Why is it necessary to focus on the sovereignty of God in times of crisis?

MINISTERING TO ONE ANOTHER

Use one scripture about God's sovereignty to encourage each other. Take turns. If you can't find a scripture remind someone, God is not dead.

FINALIZE SERVICE PROJECTS AND SET A DATE

Please continue to discuss and work on your service projects. Pray about it as you discuss and let the Holy Spirit lead you.