



Rice Memorial MBC

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Praying for One Another

Definitions in **bold** letters are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **September 6, 2015**

Acts 4:23-31

Introduction: In going over the last two chapters, where we met with so many good things that the apostles did, I wondered what was become of the **scribes** and **Pharisees**, and **chief priests**, that they did not appear to contradict and oppose them, as they had used to treat Christ himself; surely they were so confounded at first with the pouring out of the Spirit that they were for a time struck dumb! But I find we have not lost them; their forces rally again, and here we have an encounter between them and the apostles; for from the beginning the gospel met with opposition.

Here, **I.** Peter and John are taken up, upon a warrant from the priests, and committed to JAIL (v. 1-4). **II.** They are examined by a **committee** of the great **Sanhedrim** (v. 5-7). **III.** They bravely avow what they have done, and preach Christ to their persecutors (v. 8-12). **IV.** Their **persecutors**, being unable to answer them, enjoin them silence, threatening them if they go on to preach the gospel, and so dismiss them (v. 13-22). **V.** They apply to God by prayer, for the further operations of that grace which they had already experienced (v. 23-30). **VI.** God owns them, both outwardly and inwardly, by manifest tokens of his **presence with them** (v. 31-33). **VII.** The **believers** had their hearts knit together in holy love, and enlarged their charity to the poor, and the church flourished more than ever, to the glory of Christ (v. 33-37). (Source <http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/acts/4.html>)

Acts 4:8-12, Then Peter, **filled** with the **Holy Ghost**, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the **good deed** done to the **impotent** (crippled, disabled) man, by what means he is made whole; Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the **name (authority)** of **Jesus Christ** of **Nazareth**, whom **ye crucified**, whom **God raised** from the **DEAD**, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

This is the **stone** which was set at nought of you **builders**, which is become the **HEAD** of the corner. Neither is there **salvation** in any other: for there is **none** other **name (authority)** under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Thought 1. Remember, Jesus told them they'd be **FILLED** so they could be witnesses and do the **WORK** that goes along with ministering the gospel. They were **NOT** filled so they could LIVE holy. As in Jesus' life, the anointing is for WORK. So, like Jesus, we **LIVE** holy because of the born-again experience and **FAITH** in God's understood word.

Luke 4:17-19, And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The **Spirit** of the Lord is **UPON me**, because HE hath **ANOINTED me** to **preach** the gospel to the poor; he hath **SENT** me to **heal** the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to **SET** at **liberty** them that are bruised, To **preach** the acceptable year of the Lord.

Acts 1:8, But ye shall receive **power (force, miraculous power, strength)**, after that the **Holy Ghost** is come **UPON you:** and ye shall be **WITNESSES** unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

1 John 5:3-4, For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is **BORN of God** overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our **FAITH**.

Matthew 4:3-4, And when the **tempter** came to him, he said, **IF (forasmuch as [SINCE])** thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and **said, It is written, Man** shall not **live** by **bread** alone, but by every **WORD** that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Thought 2. Notice, he resisted, NOT by the power of the Holy Spirit, but, by the **WORD** of God his Father taught him; of which, he had a good understanding.

Psalm 111:10, The **fear (reverence)** of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a **GOOD UNDERSTANDING** have all they that **DO** his commandments

Acts 4:17-22, *But that it **spread no further** among the people, let us straitly **THREATEN** them, that they SPEAK henceforth to no man in this name. And they called them, and **commanded** them **not** to **SPEAK** at all **nor** **TEACH** in the **name (authority)** of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it **be RIGHT** in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, **judge ye**. For we cannot but **SPEAK** the things which we have **SEEN** and **HEARD**. So when they had further **threatened them**, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, **BECAUSE** of the **PEOPLE**: for all men **glorified God** for that which was done. For the man was above forty years old, on whom this **MIRACLE** of **healing** was shewed.*

NOTE: Because of the people - The people **SAW** the **miracle**, confessed the finger of God, **BELIEVED** on the Lord Jesus, and thus became converts to the Christian faith; and the **converts** were now so numerous that the **Sanhedrin** was afraid to proceed to any extremities, lest an insurrection should be the consequence.
(Source: <http://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/view.cgi?bk=ac&ch=4#1>)

Acts 4:23, And being **LET GO**, they **went** to their **OWN company**, and **reported** **ALL** that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

NOTE: They went to their own company - This was properly the **first persecution** that had been raised up against the Church since the resurrection of Christ; and as the rest of the disciples must have known that Peter and John had been cast into **prison**, and that they were to be examined before the Sanhedrin, and knowing the evil disposition of the rulers toward their brethren, they doubtless made **joint supplication** to God for their safety. In this employment it is likely Peter and John found them on their return from the council, and repeated to them all their treatment, with the threats of the chief priests and elders
(Source: <http://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/view.cgi?bk=ac&ch=4#1>)

Thought 1. Before he laid down his life, Jesus warned them, about the persecution that would come. So, they were not surprised by it and were prepared to handle it.

John 15:18-21, If the **world HATE you**, ye know that it **hated** me before it **hated** you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world **hateth** you. **Remember the word** that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than

his lord. **IF (forasmuch as [SINCE])** they have persecuted me, **they WILL** also PERSECUTE you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my **name's sake**, because they **KNOW not** him that SENT me.

Persecute defined 1377, to pursue, persecute (1. to pursue in a manner to injure, VEX or afflict; to harass with unjust punishment or penalties for supposed offenses). 2. to afflict, harass, or destroy (kill) for adherence to a particular creed (BELIEF) or system of religious principles, or to a mode of worship).

John 16:33, These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have PEACE. In the world **ye SHALL** (*he did NOT say MUST*) have **tribulation**: but be of **good cheer**; I have overcome the world.

2 Timothy 3:1-17, This know also, that in the **last days perilous (dangerous)** times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, **proud**, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, UNHOLY, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, **fierce, despisers of those that are good**, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a **form of godliness**, but **denying the power** thereof: FROM SUCH turn away.

...But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, **faith, longsuffering**, charity, patience, **Persecutions**, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what **persecutions** I ENDURED: but **OUT** of them **ALL** the Lord DELIVERED ME.

Yea, and **ALL** that **will (desire)** live godly in Christ Jesus **SHALL** (*not must*) suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

But **continue thou** in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the **holy scriptures**, which are able to make thee **WISE** unto **salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable** for doctrine, for **reproof (conviction: evidence)**, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be **perfect (fresh** [untainted; invaluable, useful]), **thoroughly furnished** unto ALL good works.

Acts 4:24, And when they heard that, they **lifted up their voice to God with one accord**, and said, Lord, thou art **GOD**, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and **ALL** that in them is....

God defined 2316, the supreme (Highest in authority) **Divinity** (state of being divine; Deity).

God, the eternal and infinite spirit, the CREATOR, and the sovereign (person, in which independent and supreme [highest] authority is vested) of the universe.

Thought 1. From this scripture, we see that even though Jesus is God the Son, he is NOT the Highest Authority. Our Father, Jehovah (Yahweh) is the ONE God (Highest Divinity) and Father of all.

Ephesians 4:4-6, There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One **GOD (supreme (HIGHEST** in authority) **Divinity** and **Father** of all, who is **above all**, and through all, and IN you all.

Luke 1:31-32 ...thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name **JESUS**. ...and shall be called the **Son** of the **Highest...**

Thought 2. Furthermore, the definition of “God” reveals the scripture is not saying that there is only “one God” in existence; meaning one person who is “A God”. No, God the Father and God the Son are TWO separate persons who both are Gods (Deity). In regard to the Holy Spirit, he’s of THEM and lives IN us. But, the three are in agreement, which is to say, they are ONE! But, of the TWO Gods, God the Father is the “Highest God (Deity)”, who anointed the Son.

John 14:23, Jesus ...said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and **WE** will come unto him, and make **OUR ABODE (residence [home, house])** with him.

1 John 5:7, For there are **THREE** that bear **record** in heaven, the **Father**, the **Word**, and the **Holy Ghost**: and these **THREE** are **ONE** (in agreement).

Hebrews 1:8-9, But unto the **Son** he (*God the Father*) saith, Thy throne, **O God**, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore **GOD**, even **thy God**, hath ANOINTED THEE with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

Acts 4:25-26, *Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? The KINGS of the earth stood up, and the RULERS were gathered together against the Lord, and against HIS Christ (anointed, Messiah).*

NOTE: Plainly taught here is the fact that the early disciples regarded the Psalms as inspired; and, to them, **inspiration** was NOT mere genius, or literary skill, or prudent foresightedness; it was an impartation of the **Holy Spirit** which endowed the author of Scripture. Thus his words were true and accurate and his commands authoritative. (Source: <http://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/view.cgi?bk=ac&ch=4#1>)

Acts 4:27-28, *For of a truth against THY holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel **determined before** to be done.*

Thought 1. What the writer said is the END result of this EVENT concerning Jesus, was in God’s plan, so Jesus could “lay down” his LIFE as the Lamb of God, his blood paying the price necessary for the redemption of mankind. I say “this event” because everything happening in the earth is NOT in God’s plan for a person’s life. But, if people will make Covenant with God, through faith in Jesus and what did, an answer for every problem with which we are face is provided, and most of all, eternal life.

So, in bringing his plan to pass, God had set a time, under the Law, to SEND his son in the form of a human, no longer in the form of “a God”, so he could “taste death for every man.” (Heb. 2:7-9) All God did was take advantage of the “NATURE” of Satan that was in man’s spirit that would drive them to KILL his son at this time. But, since God gave man a “FREE WILL”, only the humans who would YIELD to Satan’s desires would accomplish it. After God the Father raised him, Jesus was made “a God” again.

1 Peter 1:18-20, Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not **REDEEMED** (purchase back; to ransom [rescue, deliver]) with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the **precious blood** of Christ, as of a **LAMB** without blemish and without spot: Who verily was **foreordained** (ordain or appoint beforehand) BEFORE the **foundation (founding)** of the world, but was manifest in these **last times** for you...

Acts 4:29-30, *And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto **thy servants**,*

that with all **BOLDNESS** they may **SPEAK THY WORD**, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that **signs** and **wonders** may be done by the **name (authority)** of thy **holy CHILD** Jesus.

NOTE: This is reminiscent of **Hezekiah's prayer** (2 Kings 19:14ff) in which he spread the insulting letter of Sennacherib before the Lord in the temple, pleading with God "to see and hear the words of Sennacherib." The **praying saints** did not propose any solution, leaving the matter wholly in the hands of the Lord; but their **petition** was concerned with their own basic need of power to "speak the word with boldness." **that signs and wonders may be done through the name of thy holy Servant Jesus.** This was a petition that God would **CONTINUE** to perform the great signs and wonders such as the healing of the impotent man; but the apostles accurately read the **CONNECTION** between such **SIGNS** and the **preaching** of the word; for, in the previous verse, they had prayed first that they themselves should not flinch in the proclamation of the truth.

(Source: <http://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/view.cgi?bk=ac&ch=4#1>)

2 Kings 19:14-15 ...**Hezekiah** received the **letter** of the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up into the house of the LORD, and **spread it** before the LORD. And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou **art** the **God (supreme [Highest in authority] God [Deity])**, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast MADE heaven and earth.

Thought 1. 2 Chronicles 20:12 reveals at WHAT Hezekiah is actually **LOOKING**.

2 Chronicles 20:12, O our God, wilt thou not **judge** them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: **BUT** **our EYES** are **upon thee**.

Acts 4:31, And when they **had prayed**, the place was **shaken** where they were assembled together; and they were all **FILLED** with the **Holy Ghost**, and they **spake** the **word** of God with **boldness**.

NOTE: The place ... was shaken ... God gave this **visible SIGN** that his promise of miraculous power to the Twelve would continue to be honored.

Filled with the Holy Spirit ... This was NOT a repetition of the wonder at **Pentecost**, but a **CONTINUATION** in the apostles of that **POWER** "from on high" which had been promised, the result of which (their speaking the word with boldness) was also a proof of the **PURPOSE** of such a gift (faculty, POWER).

(Source: <http://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/view.cgi?bk=ac&ch=4#1>)

Mark 16:17-20, And these **SIGNS** shall **follow** them that **BELIEVE**; In my **name (authority)** shall they cast out devils; they shall **speak** with new tongues...
...So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of **God**. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord **WORKING WITH them**, and **CONFIRMING (establish** [to fulfill; to make good]) the **WORD** with **SIGNS** following. Amen.

Thought 1. Again, the power of the Holy Ghost is given for WORK, NOT to LIVE holy.

Acts 4:32-33, And the **multitude** of them that **believed** were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with **great POWER** gave the **apostles witness** (testimony) of the **resurrection** of the Lord Jesus: and **great grace** was upon them all.