

IGNITE EP. 2

God Answers

INTRODUCTION

Last week we spoke about how **prayer is the heartbeat of the church!** We showed how they consistently prayed together, and individually!

God answers because he cares!

Let me tell you this morning: God answers! Even in waiting He answers, and He doesn't send us to another department! Or to another rep—He answers!

If you knew God is going to answer, would you pray?

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 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."

1 They Prayed and God Answered

Historical Context & Background

- **Chapter 2:** The Apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit after waiting as Jesus said. They perform miracles, signs, and healings.
- **Chapter 3:** The healing of the lame man at the temple.
- **Chapter 4:** They are thrown in jail for healing and preaching Jesus; many believed. They go back to the church and share what has happened.

This sets the stage for our passage.

Breaking Down The Prayer

"Now Lord"

Lord means master, owner. We have to get this right—He has lordship over us!

"Consider their threats"

They were being threatened not to speak His name again with real consequences, possibly even death. It was a real challenge to their faith. Imagine they had seen a move of God, many saved, God using them, and now threats of opposition.

So what did they do? Complain? Whine to God asking "why"?

No. They prayed!

They sought the Lord for His will to be done above theirs! They were taken out of their comfort zones.

We can learn from this because many times we get real comfortable! As long as we are comfortable we don't complain, but what happens when things get tough? When there is

opposition? When the situation looks impossible? What do we do?

WE PRAY.

We are fasting and praying starting tomorrow! For 21 days let's be intentional about prayer!

"Enable us to speak your word with great boldness"

They were praying for His will. We need to learn to pray His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Boldness (Parrēsia)

The Greek word *parrēsia* refers to free and open speech. It carries the idea of speaking without fear or reservation.

We need this for God to enable us to speak without fear or reservations! They didn't ask for the removal of persecution or opposition! They prayed for boldness to resist and have power over it! We need this boldness!

"Stretch out your hand..."

Grant (Didomi)

Meaning "to give" or "to grant." Often used to express generosity or bestowing something significant. Here, it's used in their request for God to "grant" them the ability to speak boldly.

Heal (Iasis) / Signs & Wonders

Iasis refers to healing, indicating restoration or making whole. *Sēmeiōn* (signs) and *Teratōn* (wonders) refer to miraculous events that signify God's power and presence.

They needed God; they knew they couldn't do it alone! We need to pray for signs and wonders, miracles, healings! It builds people's faith and serves as signs! God gets glorified! They point to Jesus!

⚡ GOD ANSWERED: THREE THINGS HAPPENED

1. The Place Was Shaken

People in antiquity believed earthquakes were caused by some deity from the sky. Just like in Acts 2, the place was shaken.

A Tangible Sign of God's Presence: The physical shaking of the place symbolizes God's powerful presence among the believers. It was a divine affirmation of their prayer and unity. God had their back! He is with them giving them comfort and strength.

Illustration: Prayed for breakthrough in finances and God answered.

2. Filled with the Holy Spirit

Pleistheisan Hagiou

The phrase "being filled with the Holy Spirit." The verb here implies an ongoing action, a continual state of being influenced or empowered by the Spirit.

Application: Their renewed filling with the Spirit signifies a fresh empowerment for bold proclamation, reinforcing the idea that the Spirit repeatedly enables believers for ministry. It's about allowing Him to influence us in our everyday! To give us the boldness to speak even if death is staring at us!

3. Spoke the Word of God Boldly

Elalei ton Logon tou Theou meta Parrēsias

The verb "elalei" means "to speak" or "to proclaim," indicating active communication.

Application: This shows their central mission as witnesses of the gospel, with communication characterized by confidence and openness facilitated by divine empowerment.

Summary: They prayed for signs and wonders and to speak boldly and He answered their prayer!

Conclusion: God Answers!

He answered the church here as they were in need of boldness to continue His mission!

Not sure what need you have today, but let's pray.

Are your prayers aligned with the will of God?

Commit to praying for boldness, for unity, church, and God's will!