



— *Week Five: Shaken!* —

Date: July 12, 2020

Primary Biblical text: Acts 4:23-31

Supporting scripture: Ephesians 1:22-23

Memory challenge: Acts 4:31 *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.*

Reading for next week: Acts 4:32-37

— *Reflection and Discussion Notes* —

† What is the greatest influence on how we pray?

† These first followers of Christ faced the coming persecution as a COMMUNITY.

† As the believers prayed, they began by confessing the certain hope of God's SOVEREIGNTY.

† They recognized that the presence of hardship and persecution was part of God's PLAN.

† They prayed for BOLDNESS to join God in the work of His Kingdom.
Ephesians 1:22

† They prayed for God to do what ONLY God can do.

The disciples prayed for a miracle, but not for a miracle of deliverance. They prayed for a miracle of FURTHERANCE.

† God ANSWERED their prayer!

Takeaway from today's message

† It is both tempting and easy for our prayer lives to be all about US. But faced with the hardship and threat of persecution, these believers prayers were all about GOD.

† In this time of uncertainty and hardship, how does the Acts believer's prayer teach us to pray?

- To pray with thanksgiving that God is SOVEREIGN.
- To pray for trust and understanding that God is always working out His PLAN.
- To pray for COURAGE and BOLDNESS to join God in His work, where we are right now.
- To pray for God to WORK!