



...and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
Acts 1:8

Prayer For Boldness
Acts 4:23-31
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Prayer Addressed to the Creator

Acts 4:23, 24 (HCSB)
After they were released, they went to their own people and reported everything the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, **they all raised their voices to God** and said, "Master, **You are the One who made the heaven, the earth, and the sea, and everything in them.**"

- ~ They cite God as the sovereign Creator in their prayer
- ~ They knew that having access in prayer to the Creator of the universe, they could certainly withstand the threats of the Jewish leadership

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Scripture Is Cited in Prayer

Acts 4:25, 26 (HCSB)
You said **through the Holy Spirit**, by the mouth of our father David Your servant: "Why did the Gentiles rage and the peoples plot futile things? The **kings** of the earth took their stand and the **rulers** assembled together against the Lord and against His Messiah."

- ~ They cite Psalm 2:1-2 from the LXX, attributing it to the Holy Spirit
- ~ This view of Scripture is taught in 2Timothy 3:16
- ~ Knowledge of Scripture informs the content of Christian prayer

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Theology Informed Their Prayer

Acts 4:27, 28 (HCSB)

For, in fact, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with **the Gentiles** and **the people of Israel**, assembled together against Your holy Servant Jesus, **whom You anointed**, to do whatever **Your hand and Your plan had predestined** to take place.

“ Psalm 2:1, 2 is fulfilled as the kings of the earth and Jewish leadership conspire to kill Messiah

“ The terms boule_ and proorizo_ are used to denote God’s predetermined purpose

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They Ask for Boldness Not Deliverance

Acts 4:29 (HCSB)

And now, Lord, **consider their threats**, and grant that Your slaves may **speak Your message with complete boldness**,

“ Boldness is thematic in this section

“ They were determined to preach God’s word no matter what

“ God already knew of the threats, but they appeal for boldness based on those threats

“ See Isaiah 37:14-20

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They Are Given Boldness

Acts 4:30, 31 (ESV)

“while You stretch out Your hand for healing, signs, and wonders to be performed through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” When they had prayed, **the place where they were assembled was shaken**, and they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to **speak God’s message with boldness**.

“ See Exodus 19:18

“ The filling of the Holy Spirit produced boldness to preach the gospel

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Paul Wants Prayer for Boldness

Ephesians 6:19, 20 (HCSB)
Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth **to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel**. For this I am an ambassador in chains. **Pray that I might be bold enough in Him** to speak as I should.

“ See Acts 19:8; 1Thessalonians 2:2; 1Corinthians 9:16
“ The forces of darkness and the whole world are arrayed against the gospel, thus we must pray for boldness because we must preach it

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Come With Boldness to The Throne

Hebrews 4:16 (HCSB)
Therefore let us approach the **throne of grace with boldness**, so that we may **receive mercy and find grace** to help us at the **proper time**.

“ It is because of the ministry of our great High Priest that we can have such boldness
“ “proper time” can be translated “timely help”
“ Such boldness comes from understanding that our merciful High Priest “ever lives” to make intercession for us: Hebrews 7:25

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