**I Prayed About It**

(Acts 4:31 KJV)

*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.*

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he context of this valuable and vibrant verse is very interesting.  We witness here that Peter and John and others had been preaching the uncompromising gospel and a multitude of people were being saved.  The Jews then apprehended them taking them directly to the Sanhedrin council, who threatened them and commanded them not to preach anymore—and to abandon their tradition of preaching Christ and him crucified (Acts 4:23-31 KJV).  The disciples then after their release and standing boldly in the faith gathered together and praised God, quoted scripture, and prayed about the situation they just experienced. And if you pay close attention you'll notice that verse 31 occurs at the end of the prayer.

"*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."*

As they prayed together, in one mind, the Spirit of God moved upon them and filled them with His presence and power. God honored the prayers of His people when they came together as one, while they prayed for the common good of one another.

It has been said, "When we work, we work; when we pray, God works." Prayer is the means God has ordained by which he will work on earth and meet the needs of his people. If you and I don't pray, we will not see the hand or the movement of God. It has been said, "Prayer is the indispensable and vital function of a believer."

 A recent poll taken by the National Opinion Research Center in Chicago discovered these rather interesting facts. They discovered that 60% of the American people pray at least one time every day. They also discovered that 78% of the American people pray at least one time a week. They also found that only 1% of Americans say that they never pray. So, we are living in a land where people believe in prayer. Whatever may be their view of prayer, whatever their understandings of the subject of prayer, the majority of people in America do believe and practice prayer.

1. **The Speaking To The Council:**
* **Their Consecration**

Our text tells the story of a remarkable miracle wrought by the Lord at the hands of Peter and John as they went to the temple. There they saw a lame man and in the name of Jesus, Peter healed him. Acts 3 tells us that he was not only healed, but he jumped up and began walking and leaping and praising God. No one could ultimately deny or disconnect what had happened to this man crippled from birth and make it defenseless or derogative. When a crowd gathered, Peter seized the moment to preach a powerful gospel sermon (Acts 3:11-26). The word then spread like wildfire to the Jewish leaders who had Peter and John arrested and thrown in prison for 24hours.

The next day, Peter made an impassioned defense before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish Supreme Court (Acts 4:8-12). His boldness startled them because it was so unexpected. He actually said that Jesus is the only way to heaven (Acts 4:12).

* **Their Challenge**

After conferring with one another in a isolated meeting, the Jewish leaders realized that a genuine miracle had taken place and wasn't declinable. Since they couldn’t deny what the Lord had done, they ordered Peter and John to stop preaching in the name of Jesus. So in resolve to their command—Peter and John issued an obligated challenge.