

How to Pray Faith Prayers

Text: Acts 4:1-31

Discern and Partake of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NIV)

- **23** For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,
- **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.”
- **25** In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”
- **26** For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Acts 4:1-7 (NIV)

Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin

- **1** The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people.
- **2** They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.
- **3** They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day.
- **4** But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.
- **5** The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem.
- **6** Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family.
- **7** They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

Acts 4:8-14 (NKJV)

Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin

- **8** Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people!
- **9** If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed,
- **10** then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.
- **11** Jesus is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’
- **12** Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”
- **13** When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.
- **14** But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.

Acts 4:15-22 (NIV)

Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin

- **15** So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together.
- **16** “What are we going to do with these men?” they asked. “Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it.
- **17** But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”
- **18** Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.
- **19** But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges!
- **20** As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”
- **21** After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened.
- **22** For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

Acts 4:23-27 (NIV)

The Believers Pray

- **23** On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them.
- **24** When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.
- **25** You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: “Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?
- **26** The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.
- **27** Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.

Acts 4:28-31 (NIV)

The Believers Pray

- **28** They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.
- **29** Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.
- **30** Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”
- **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.

Components of Faith Prayer in context of Acts 4

1) The prayer of faith does not begin with when we “get down on our knees” or “gather to pray”. It is a lifestyle.

(a) Contend for the faith amidst persecution(s), do not stagger.

i) vs 7-12

- ⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: “By what power or what name did you do this?”
- ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people!
- ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed,
- ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.
- ¹¹ Jesus is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’
- ¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Components of Faith Prayer in context of Acts 4

1) The prayer of faith does not begin with when we “get on our knees” or “gather to pray”. It is a lifestyle.

(a) Contend for the faith amidst persecution(s), do not stagger.

ii) vs 18-20

- **18** Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.
- **19** But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges!
- **20** As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

Components of Faith Prayer in context of Acts 4

2) The prayer of faith constitutes a lifestyle of being with Jesus.

vs 13

- **13** When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Note:

Faith can be seen

Luke 5:20 (NIV) - When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

Faith can be heard

Matthew 8:10 (NIV) - When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.

Components of Faith Prayer in context of Acts 4

3) The prayer of faith requires “believe in God and Jesus Christ” evidenced by our obedience.

vs 18-20

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- **19** But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges!
- **20** As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

Components of Faith Prayer in context of Acts 4

4) The prayer of faith (may) require that you agree with other believers.

vs 23

²³ On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. (NIV)

²³ As soon as they were freed, Peter and John returned to the other believers and told them what the leading priests and elders had said. (NLT)

Components of Faith Prayer in context of Acts 4

5) The prayer of faith requires that you understand the problem/situation prior to praying.

vs 24

24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. (NIV)

24 When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God: “O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. (NLT)

Components of Faith Prayer in context of Acts 4

6) The prayer of faith requires praying to God; “in oneness”; “acknowledging God.”

vs 24

24 When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God: “O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. (NLT)

Note

We pray to God in the name of Jesus.

Components of Faith Prayer in context of Acts 4

7) The prayer of faith requires finding and using a scripture which is applicable to the problem.

vs 24-26

- **24** When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.
- **25** You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: “Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?
- **26** The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.

They quoted from **Psalm 2:1-2 (World English Bible)**

1 Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot a vain thing?

2 The kings of the earth take a stand, and the rulers take counsel together, against Yahweh, and against his Anointed...

Components of Faith Prayer in context of Acts 4

8) The prayer of faith requires that you understand how the biblical text is applicable to the problem at hand.

vs 27-28

²⁷ Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.

²⁸ They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

Components of Faith Prayer in context of Acts 4

9) The prayer of faith requires that you declare what you want to see happen based on the scriptures read.

vs 29-30

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

Components of Faith Prayer in context of Acts 4

10) Follow by actions (acting upon the solution prayed) in (oneness).

vs 31

- **31** After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.



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