**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. April 19, 2020**

**Prayers That Move Heaven And Earth**

Acts 4:23-31

**Key Truth:** How we pray is an indication of whether we have strayed from God’s mission for the church to make disciples.

**The Gospel, Conflict And The Church:**

1. The Apostles were characterized as men who spoke and

 lived boldly for Jesus Christ.

2. The Apostles didn’t allow the fear of death keep them

 from their mission.

3. They were unified in their mission and in their response.

4. Their dangerous prayer shook the earth and activated

 the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Same God Different Scenario:**

1. Biblical community is important in the life of the church.

2. God’s will might not remove us from difficult situations;

 but when we pray, God will strengthen us and make us

 more effective for Him in those situations.

3. Dangerous prayers don’t seek self-preservation, they

 seek the glory of God through the proclamation of the

 gospel.

4. Bold, Spirit lead and faith filled prayers is what

 ultimately moves the hand of God.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Pray that God would help us pray dangerous and bold prayers for ourselves and our church. Ask that the Holy Spirit would give us boldness in sharing God’s message of hope. Set aside one hour this week for prayer and praise to God.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

What is the biggest answer to prayer you’ve personally experienced? What did that answer do for your prayer life?

Read James 5:16-18: When do you find you are most compelled to pray? Do you usually pray when things go well, when you experience hardship, or do you go to God in any circumstance? Explain.

When does James suggest that we need to go to God in prayer? How does James’s advice on prayer compare to your practice of prayer?

What do you think gave Elijah the confidence to pray such a dangerous prayer? (see 1 Kings 17:1-7, Deut. 28:15-24)

Read Joshua 10:12-15: Notice that Joshua prayed in the presence of His people. Why is it important to see that Joshua prayed this big, outlandish prayer in front of others? What does that indicate about his faith?

Would you be comfortable praying like this in front of other people? Why or why not?

READ ACTS 16:25-30: What does the response of Paul and Silas to their circumstances show about them?

What battle are you facing in your life right now in which you need to take hold of the victory God has already given in Christ?