

I. THE PRAYERS HEARD AND ANSWERED BY GOD

- A. When they prayed, the place shook
 - 1. That's it. That's all we need to know.
 - 2. How do WE shake this world with our prayers?
 - 3. How do WE appropriate some of that for ourselves?
- B. That's often the missing element. The missing ingredient.
 - 1. When the cake turns out flat, the cook forgot something.
 - 2. When the pie doesn't set, the cook forgot something.
 - 3. When we don't take the world for Christ, maybe we forgot something!
- C. And it's prayer. Corporate prayer!
 - 1. But there are some pre-requisites
 - 2. Some requirements to meet beforehand

II. THE PRAISE DIRECTED TO GOD

- A. This has become a pattern in the first part of the Book of Acts
 - 1. To see a church, to see the Apostles, to see EVERYONE
 - a. Give PRAISE TO GOD
 - b. Direct their praise to God (not one another or man)
 - c. They were THANKING the right person
 - 2. They LIFTED up their voice (not voices) to God (vs. 24)
 - a. They were UNIFIED in their praise
 - b. Not an UNCERTAIN sound
 - c. 1 COR. 14:8 – “For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?”
 - i. Is this why some churches can't move forward?
 - ii. Some are praising God, and some are not?
 - iii. JAMES 1:8 – “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”
 - iv. If a man, why not a church?
 - 3. JAMES 4:8 – “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”
- B. God's work was being done, His program put into action!
 - 1. They go to history and remind themselves how God had worked before
 - a. Look to PSALMS 2
 - b. SERVE the LORD with Fear (hallowing, honor, worship)
 - c. REJOICE with TREMBLING
 - 2. Remember, the whole place was shaken!
 - a. Maybe they're rejoicing with trembling was so great

- b. The building just joined right in with them!
 - 3. They were FILLED with the Holy Ghost
 - a. Remember, if you're saved you have the indwelling Holy Ghost
 - b. And you can quench the Holy Ghost with sin
 - c. But you can be FILLED to OVERFLOWING too!
 - d. That's what we've been commanded to do! How we should live!
- C. They were ASSEMBLED!
 - 1. That's like an amplifier for praise, by the way.
 - 2. Ever heard a little tinny speaker play the 1812 overture?
 - 3. Then think about a ASSEMBLING a giant PA system!

III. THE POSSESSIONS OF ALL DEDICATED TO GOD

- A. Fellowship prevailed among them
 - 1. This is what is needed for all churches! ANY church! Needed TODAY!
 - a. Fellowship: "Partnership; joint interest; as fellowship in pain."
 - b. A "joint interest"
 - i. That isn't a passive "looking on with interest"
 - ii. That is a "expected dividend" type of interest
 - iii. I am INTERESTED in your Christian walk
 - iv. Because it AFFECTS me as a church member
 - c. You know the story of the Jericho and Ai!
 - i. Achan stole from God at Jericho
 - ii. JOSHUA 7:21 – "When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it."
 - iii. And then they fought against Ai and LOST!
 - iv. 36 men DIED because of Achan's sin
 - 2. It's easy to focus on the negative side
 - a. It's REAL – Your sin affects other people
 - b. Usually, the one's you love most
 - c. But your SERVICE also affects other people!
 - 3. HEB. 10:24 – "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:"
 - 4. TITUS 2:7 – "In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, (8) Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you."
- B. They took CARE of one another (vs. 32)
 - 1. They cared for each other more than they cared for possessions
 - a. They had blessings common and trials common
 - b. Good tidings and setbacks

- c. This is not “giving to get” this is not prosperity
 - d. There is NO mention of “profit” here – ONLY NO LACK (vs. 34)
 - 2. There’s something wrong when a church becomes a business
 - a. This isn’t your network, or your social club
 - b. This is the LORD’S church, and we are all members together
 - c. Let’s love each other! CARE for one another!
 - 3. Some gave MORE than others (vs. 35)
 - a. But it was “hand’s off” giving – not personal but corporate!
 - b. “I’ll give you millions for a new building if you name it after me.”
 - c. “I’ll buy a church pew, but you have to put my name on it.”
 - d. Once it was at the apostle’s feet, it was the CHURCH’S!
- C. God points out one fellow that gave to his church (vs. 36 & 37)
 - 1. Barnabas, the son of consolation
 - a. Consolation – “Comfort; alleviation of misery, or distress of mind; refreshment of mind or spirits; a comparative degree of happiness in distress or misfortune, springing from any circumstance that abates the evil, or supports and strengthens the mind, as hope, joy, courage and the like.”
 - b. One of the true unsung heroes of the New Testament
 - c. The man called to the mission field with Paul
 - d. His name listed first, but then later gave way to Paul
 - e. Held out a second chance to John Mark after he left
 - 2. This is important context for next Sunday!
 - 3. Because we need to know about Ananias and Sapphira

IV. THE POWER IN WITNESSING FOR GOD

- A. It is a PRIVILEGE to speak God’s Word to a lost person
 - 1. They begged for the blessing to be bold (vs. 29)
 - a. They intended to go out those doors and win the WORLD
 - b. They could see no barriers to their progress, no obstacles at all
 - c. They knew God was with them and they were READY
 - 2. List to their prayer!
 - a. They praised God for his Creation (vs. 25)
 - b. They remembered David and his trust in God (vs. 26)
 - c. They claimed Jesus as the Holy One of Israel (vs. 27)
 - d. They TRUSTED that God will do whatever He wants (vs. 28)
 - e. They prayed for protection and His unction (vs. 29)
 - 3. Why? To preach the Gospel! To Obey God! To win the LOST!
- B. No power in Hell or Earth can stop a rejoicing church
 - 1. How do we get close to God?
 - a. Give up things of the world
 - b. Seek revival in our OWN hearts
 - c. And REJOICE REJOICE REJOICE in the things of God

2. MATT. 16:18 – “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
 - a. Gates do not attack – they DEFEND
 - b. Churches seem to think this verse means “hunker down”
 3. No, it means attack and TAKE TERRITORY AWAY from the devil!
- C. Governments and dictators have tried to destroy God’s churches
1. Satan has come against them!
 2. But he is POWERLESS against a rejoicing, God-praising, revived Church!
 3. Let’s be one of those!

V. THE PLAN OF SALVATION FROM GOD

- A. They all experienced “great grace” (vs. 33)
 1. Grace is “God’s Riches at Christ’s Expense”
 2. Grace – “Appropriately, the free unmerited love and favor of God, the spring and source of all the benefits men receive from him.”
 3. Unmerited means “unearned,”
- B. Grace is the characteristic of God that provides a way of salvation
 1. HEB. 2:3 – “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;”
 2. TITUS 3:5 – “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”
 3. If you are here and you’re lost, without Christ
 4. You need His GRACE
- C. Put your faith in God.
 1. ROMANS 10:17 – “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 2. Let me show you from the word of God how you can be saved
 3. And how YOU TOO can find His GRACE