

The background of the slide features a soft, golden glow with a white dove in the center, symbolizing the Holy Spirit. The word "ACTS" is written in large, dark, serif capital letters at the top. Below the dove, the words "OF THE" and "Holy Spirit" are written in a smaller, dark, serif font, with "Holy" and "Spirit" on separate lines.

ACTS

—

*Praying Together  
for Boldness*

**Acts 4:23-31**



# Facing Opposition?

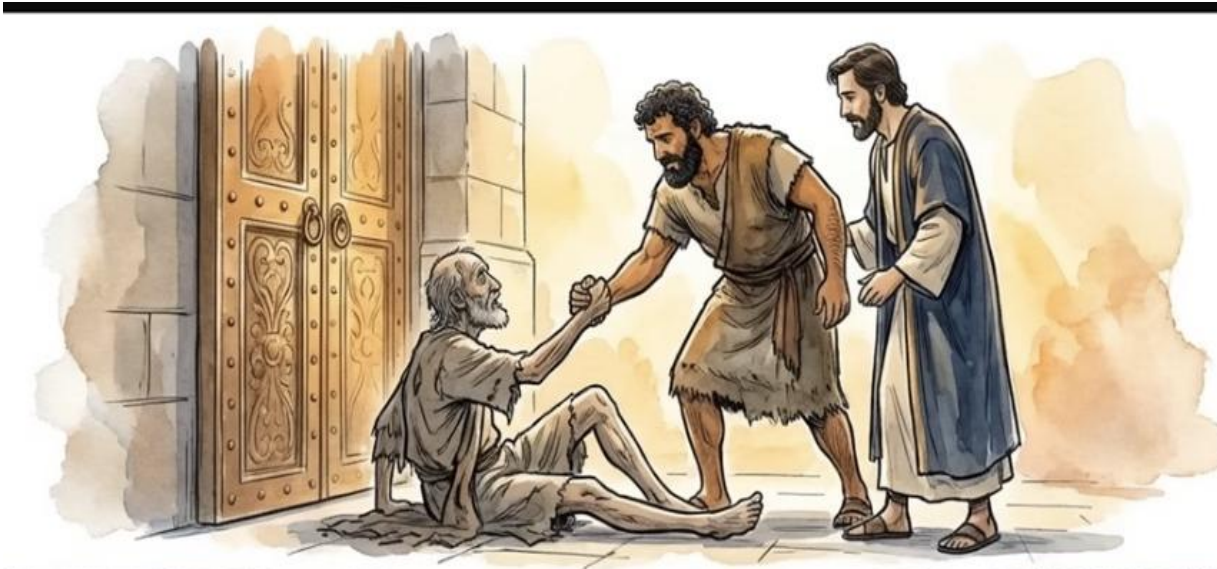
WOULD YOU STILL STAND  
FOR CHRIST IN THE FACE OF  
OPPOSITION?

*How would you do so?*

# **A Spirit-filled church faces resistance**

**Acts 4:1–22, Peter and John Arrested and Released**

***How did they response?***



## **The Believers Prayer Acts 4:23–31**

***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.***

***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.***



# Praying for Boldness

## **The Spirit-filled Church Runs Together to God in Prayer**

- *Anchors Prayer In God's Sovereignty and His Word*
- *Prays for Boldness and Asks God to Act for His Glory*
- *Experiences God's Presence and Power*



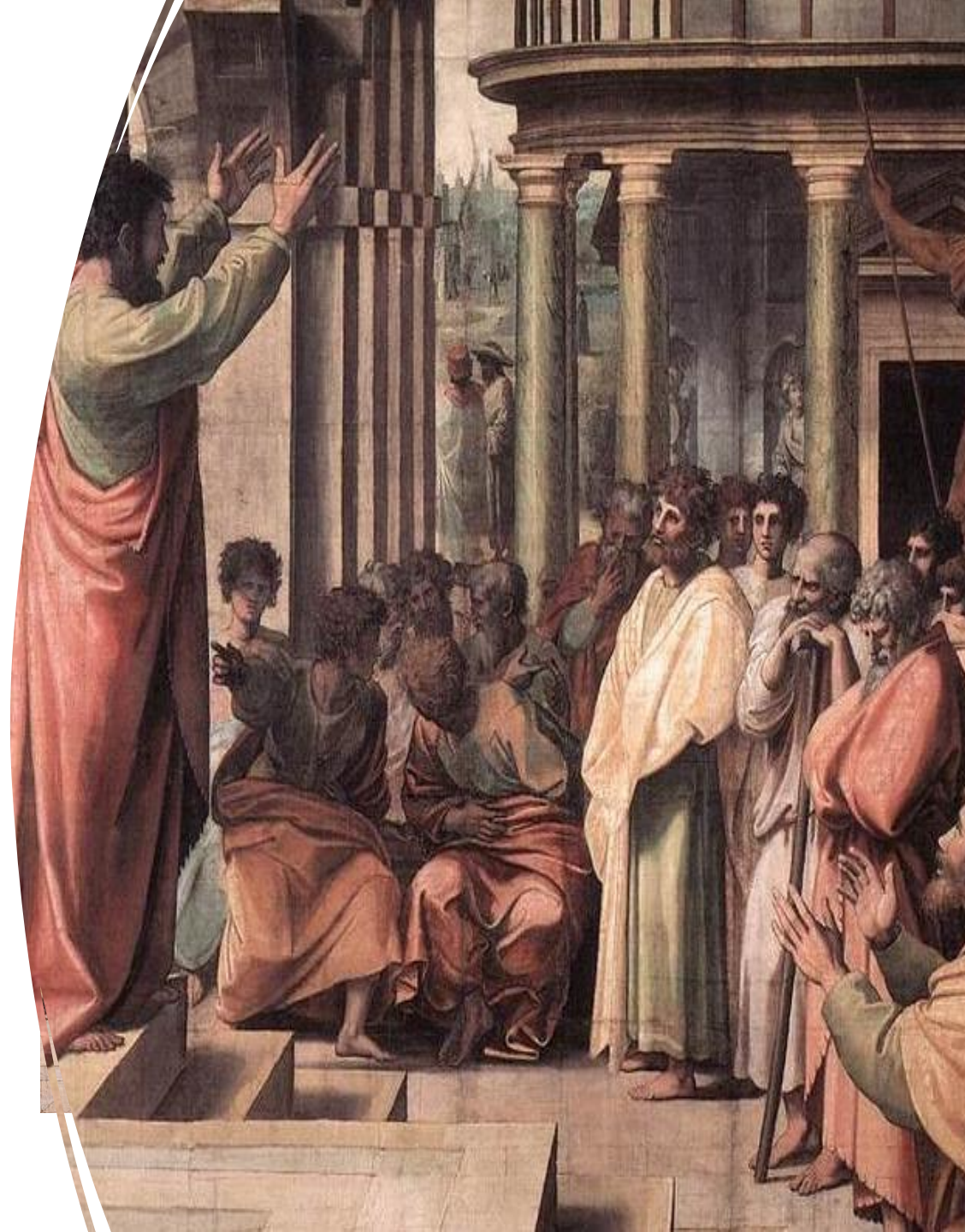
## **A Spirit-Filled Church Runs Together to God in Prayer**

*“On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported...“They raised their voices together in prayer to God...”*

**First Community and Prayer, Not Strategy**

*Not occasionally  
or casually but instinctively*

***Pray together, in One Accord***



# 1. Anchor Prayer in God's Sovereignty

*“Sovereign Lord... you made  
the heavens and the earth...”*

**God the Sovereign Creator**

*Before they make requests,  
they declare who God is.*

**Nothing surprises Him**

*He is in control of everything*



# God's Word is Trustworthy

*“Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?*

*<sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.”*

**Understand the situation from His word**

*They quote Psalm 2 of the crowning of King David, God laughing at their revolt (V3-4)*



**Psalm 2:1-2**



## **The crucifixion was under God's control**

*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.*

**It happened just the way God has planned**

*“They did what your power and will had decided beforehand...”*





**Beauty and Order**



**Confusing and Chaotic**

**God sees the full picture**

*Like a tapestry viewed from the front/back*

**God is making something beautiful**

**He is in Control**

*Rely on His word. Don't panic, don't lose hope.*

*Trust Him and Rest in Him*

## 2. Pray for Boldness

*“Now, Lord, consider their threats...enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.”*

**Boldness Not for Safety**

Not *“Remove the opposition.”*

**Not for Escape**

*“Take away the problem.”*

**Courage to join Him  
to accomplish His will**



## Ask God to Act for His glory

***30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.***

**The Battle belongs to the Lord**

***“God, continue to work powerfully against the enemies”***

**To accomplish His purpose and will for His glory**



“THE LORD WILL  
FIGHT FOR YOU,  
AND YOU HAVE  
ONLY TO BE  
STILL.”

EXODUS 14:14



### **3. Experience God's Presence and Power**

*“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.”*

**Connected to Divine Power**

**Presence** - *The Place Was Shaken*

**Power** - *Filled with the Spirit*

**Courage** - *Spoke the Word Boldly*



# Power of a Praying Church

***A small group of believers in a room***

***No influence. No power. No resources.***

***But they pray, look to God and His Word***

***The room shakes. The world changes.***

***That is the power of a praying church.***



**WHAT WILL  
HAPPEN?**



## **Key Truth**

***When the church prays according to God's will, God responds with His power. If we want bold witness, spiritual power, gospel impact, we must become a praying church.***

**The same Holy Spirit  
who empowered the early  
believers is with us today**

*When we face opposition in  
our church, family, personal life*

- *Are we a church/Christians  
that retreat under pressure?*
- *Or are we a church/Christians that  
stand and pray and see God works?*



# The Call to Prayer

**R. A. Torrey (1856 - 1928)**

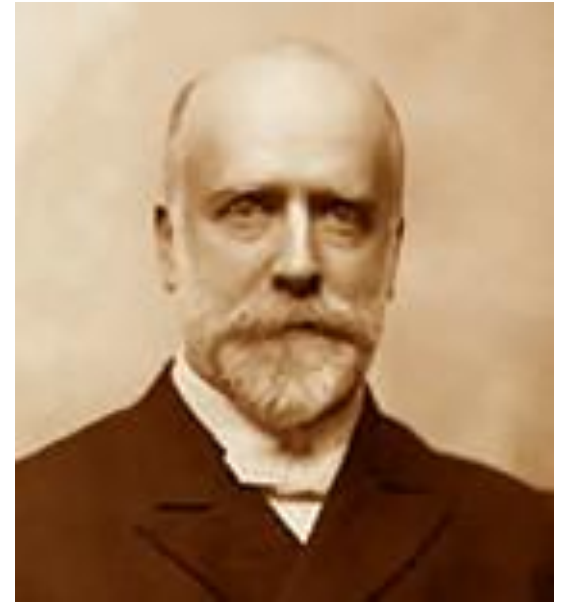
*“Pray for great things, expect great things, work for great things, but above all – pray.”*

**Philip Brooks (1835 - 1893)**

*“Nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer except that which lies outside the will of God.”*

***“I do not pray for a lighter load,  
but for a stronger back.”***

*“Do not pray for easy life. Pray to be stronger men and women. Do not pray for tasks equal to your power. Pray for power equal to your tasks.”*



# **Become a Praying Church/Christians**

*Gather Together to Pray  
Recognize God's Sovereignty*

**Know who He is & His will**

*Look to His grace, mercy, love,  
promises, purpose, and plan*

- *Pray for boldness to speak*
- *Courage to stand and obey*
- *God to move in power for His glory and the gospel to advance*



# **HLCE Theme 2026 - Church on the Move**

*The Spirit Empowered Mission and Service*



***PRAY! Be Spirit-Filled Bold Witnesses***