

Free to Give
No Need Unmet
Acts 4:23-37
January 22, 2017

Denial - I don't have any problems.

Depression - All I have is problems.

Dumbfounded - I don't know what to do about my problems.

Determination - I can handle my problems by myself.

Trust enough to face TRIALS & Tender enough to risk SACRIFICE.

1. You need your CHRISTIAN FAMILY. Acts 4:23

Acts 4:23-37 — 23 When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them.

2. You need to rely on PRAYER. Acts 4:24-31

Prayer is communicating with God!!!

2.1. It began SPONTANEOUSLY (v.24a) **24** *And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said...*

2.2. It claimed GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY (v.24b) *"Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them,...*

2.3. It dealt with REALITY (v.25-29a) **25** *who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, " 'Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? **26** The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed'— **27** for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, **28** to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. **29** And now, Lord, look upon their threats...just a couple of observations here—*

2.4. It emphasized CERTAINTY (v.29b-31) *...grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, **30** while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." **31** And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.*

3. You need to be united in SACRIFICE. Acts 4:32-37

32 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.

3.1.Great POWER (v.33a) *33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus,*

3.2.Great GRACE (V.33b) *...and great grace was upon them all.*

3.3.Great GENEROSITY (V.34-37) *34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. 36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, 37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.*

Church, when we trust God enough to face trials and we're tender enough to risk sacrifice, we'll begin to see the power of money over us fading because of our generosity. We'll see the glory of God being displayed in the lives of others and we'll be able to rejoice over the change that God brings in the lives of others through our giving.

Trust enough to face TRIALS & Tender enough to risk SACRIFICE.

Let's talk about meeting needs...

1. What was the first thing Peter and John did after they were released by the religious leaders for sharing the Good News about Jesus (v.23)?
2. What benefit is there to being a part of a Church Family?
3. What was the first thing these believers acknowledged about God in their prayer (v.24)?
4. What did they believe about the Old Testament (v.25)?
5. Why would it be important to develop the habit of including God's Word in our prayers?
6. How did what David has written help them understand what had happened in their day (v. 25-27)?
7. Who did they acknowledge was really in control of what had happened to Jesus (v.28)?
8. What did these disciples ask God to do for them (v.29-30)?
9. How did God respond to this prayer (v.31)?
10. There were at least 3 results that took place in the lives of these believers because of their experience of the grace of God. What were they (v.33-35)?