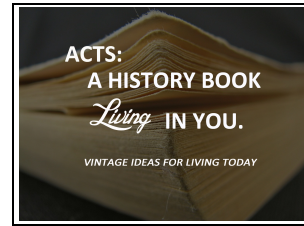


Notes:



Sierra Community Church February 16, 2014
Dan Wilvers

Part 7: Acts 4:23-31 **A Whole Lotta Shakin' Going On**

The Message

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: (quoted from Psalm 2) "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.

Passage can be broken down to four parts:

1. The Report vs. 23
2. The Prayer vs. 24-30
3. The Response vs. 31a
4. The Result vs. 31b

The Prayer can be broken down into four parts:

1. Acknowledging our Creator vs. 24
2. Citing of scripture vs. 25, 26 (Psalm 2)
3. Fulfillment of that scripture vs. 27,28
4. A specific request vs. 29,30

What the text teaches us about “*spiritual experience*” vs. 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. vs. 31

What does it mean that God’s presence comes down?

What does it mean that they’re filled with the Holy Spirit?

The simple answer is the God they already knew, and the Holy Spirit they already had, they were experiencing in a powerful, new way.

“*Spiritual experience*” is to deeply sense with the whole person what you may already know with the mind rationally.

Pastor Tim Keller

The Dilemma:

Churches have a tendency to either be all about a Christian experience or afraid of it. In some churches it’s what everything is about: passion, experience, and power.

There are other churches that are so afraid of that. It’s all about the mind. It’s all about doctrine and practice.

Balancing these two views:

Two Stories:

Kenneth Clark- British author, museum director, broadcaster
Finding God

Kenneth knew the experiential needs to be balanced with the rational, he just couldn’t overcome his fear of what others might make of him.

John Newton-Pastor and author of “Amazing Grace”
Growing in God

If you’re going to grow as a Christian, you need some times in which you have a really strong experience of God, and other times in which you’re completely dry and devoid of it.