

III. By the spirit's leading they became radically generous.

...they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. Vs. 32

This didn't mean they sold the roofs over their own heads, they still needed places to meet and live. But give they did because as Paul wrote God's love and generosity went hand and hand.

In fact so great was the early churches giving Paul had to warn them against the users- Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: "Those unwilling to work will not get to eat." 2 Thessalonians 3:10

What do we have to do?

First, you have to identify your real problem. If we think this world is going to stop shaking, it won't. Then, you remember Jesus, how he was shaken so that we would never have to be shaken again. Then, we have to pray that in ourselves.

Community Group Questions:

1. How have you prayed like what N.T. Wright says? In what ways would you change those prayers after reading Acts 4?
2. What do you see is the purpose of God 'shaking' you?
3. Assuming you are generous, what motivates you to give and how do you determine when to and when not to support another or a ministry?



The Radical Nature
of Kingdom Living
Acts 4:23-35

The Disciples pray for courage
amidst persecution.

I. Praying for a boldness that goes beyond circumstances.

And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

Acts 4:29,30

NT Wright: The prayer is not 'Lord please cause them to die horribly' or 'Please stop them from being so unpleasant.' Not 'Lord, let this persecution stop,' or even 'Please convert the authorities, so that your work can go forward.' Rather, quite simply, 'Now Lord look on their threats; let us go on speaking boldly; and will you continue to please work powerfully.'

What's going on here?

For this world in its present form is passing away. 1 Corinthians 7:31

We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one. I John 5:19

For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Romans 8:19

They recognized there was only one true thing that lasts:

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

Mark 13:31

But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

Psalms 33:11

Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58

II. A manifestation of God's presence was shown to them.

"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." Acts 4:31

The radical nature of their calling was they saw what they needed was the reality of God as their only reality.
They we're looking for the change God brings by His spirit.

Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God—what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:2

"I am sending you out like sheep surrounded by wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

Matthew 10:16

Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation.

1 Timothy 2:2

The more God can shake you, the less the world can!

- **The two greatest earthquakes in history.**

Matthew 27 beginning in verse 50. "And Jesus cried out in a loud voice and died.⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split⁵² and the tombs broke open. ...⁵⁴ When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

Then there was a second earthquake-

Matthew 28. "On Sunday morning, there was a violent earthquake for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. Vs. 1

Just as the justice of God created an earthquake at Jesus death, now the righteousness of Christ resurrection creates an earthquake, because death could not hold Him.

I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.

Revelation 1:18

Because Jesus was shaken for us, he has broken death. (Jesus) suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Hebrews 2:9

He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News.

2 Timothy 1:10

And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

Romans 8:2