

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## *Acts Series*

These questions are for the **November 10, 2019** sermon, "Something Happens When Believers Pray."  
Please read the sermon passage (Acts 4:23-31) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

WHEN CIVIL AUTHORITIES OPPOSE GOD'S WORK, BEGIN WITH PRAYER . . .

1. Emphasizing the Sovereignty of God (23-24)
  - a. The name of Jesus Christ is God's authorized signature, showing his sovereign power.
  - b. The state is not the ultimate authority, God is!
    - i. God's sovereignty does not diminish human responsibility.
    - ii. Human responsibility does not limit God's sovereignty.
2. Applying the Word of God (25-26)
  - a. To be effective in prayer, we must learn to pray the promises of God back to him.
  - b. The world begins to change when the people of God begin to pray.
3. Discerning the plan of God (27-28)
  - a. Opposition to God is an opportunity for God. Don't fret when you see an obstacle.
  - b. God created from nothing (v. 24); he will bring something good from something bad.
4. Seeking the empowerment of God (29-31)
  - a. None of us wants to shrink away when authorities oppose God. Pray for strength!
  - b. The strength to stand firm comes in and from the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: In what way do you see the state (and public opinion and cultural sensitivities and political correctness) attempting to limit speaking freely in the name of Jesus Christ? There is not one recorded word of criticism of the authorities by the believers, instead, they went straight to prayer. What can we learn from these early believers?
2. Based on #2, above: These early believers Psalm 2, expressing total faith in God. Respond to this directive: "Put all the Bible you can into your prayer." Do you consciously, actively and faithfully pray directly from the Scriptures? How can you improve at this?
3. Based on #3, above: The world will always try to create obstacles intended to limit the expansion of God's work. These man-made obstacles always become opportunities for God. Do you believe this is true? Where have you seen it happen? Where is the plan of God (you and me multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ) going forward?
4. Based on #4, above: In order for an obstacle to become an opportunity, believers must continue to trust him with confidence (PRAY) and continue to PROCLAIM him with humility. How are you doing with these two things?
5. Based on #4, above: Boldness is not the absence of fear, but doing the right thing even when we may be afraid. It's not letting fear stop you from obedience. Discuss.