

WHEN THE CHURCH PRAYS

Acts 4:23-31

Introduction: "There's no place like home..." and there's nothing like a Church family to pray for you when you have a need. Peter and John were arrested for preaching about Jesus Christ but were released with a warning to not preach about Jesus anymore. Out of jail, it would seem logical that the men would go to their homes, but instead they went to their Church family.

I. THERE IS COMFORT AND JOY IN HAVING A REAL CHURCH FAMILY

1. When released from jail, Peter and John went immediately to their "Church" family.
 - They did not go home.
 - They did not seek legal action.
 - They went to their "own company" and reported all that happened.
2. There is no joy or comfort that can compare to the fellowship of a Church family.
 - David said, "*...I was glad when they said unto me, let us go unto the house of the Lord..*"
(*Psalm 122:1*)
 - Peter and John went to the place where they felt most welcome and comfortable.
3. Nothing is more important and beneficial in the life of a Christian than joining his/her Church family in worship and fellowship.
4. The world does not provide anything that can only be found in the House of God and the Christian is admonished to not despise or neglect joining his/her Church family in worship.

II. MATTERS OF GREAT CONCERN BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH FOR PRAYER

1. After telling the Church what had happened to them, the Church began a prayer meeting.
 - There was no thought of revenge.
 - There was no formation of a committee to investigate.
 - There was no motion to dismiss Peter and John from the congregation because of their behavior.
 - THE CHURCH PRAYED.
2. Of all the things done during a worship service, none is more important than prayer.
 - One person leads and the rest join in by lifting their hearts with the one praying.
 - Everyone seeking the same thing from God.
3. God's greatness encourages Christians to work, even to suffer for the Lord's cause.
4. The Church acknowledged and bowed to God's purpose for what had happened.
 - They believed God's Word.
 - They accepted God's Will.

5. The Church asked three things of God:
 - they asked God to watch over the apostles.
 - they asked God to grant Peter and John (and any others) boldness to preach the Gospel.
 - they asked God to stretch out His hand to reveal His power, His Grace, and His glory in their midst.

III. GOD ANSWERED THEIR REQUEST

1. God made Himself known in their midst:
 - the presence of the Holy Spirit filled the Church.
 - the apostles did preach the Word of God with boldness.
 - God was honored.

CONCLUSION:

1. Being wronged does not give the believer cause to retaliate.
2. There is no place like one's Church home.
3. There is no place in the world where one can find what is found ONLY in one's Church home.
4. Church absence is the first step toward falling away from God.
5. "Faith is the door to heaven, but Prayer unlocks the door" goes an old Gospel hymn and it is so true.
6. Prayer is direct communication with Almighty God and God wants to hear from His Children.
7. God wants to answer the prayers of His Children in a way that will bring honor to Him.