

**Responding to Persecution**  
**Acts 4: 23-31**  
**Questions for Sunday Feb. 21/21**

**Getting to Know You**

1. What do you think of when you hear the word persecution? Look up the definition, how is that different than what you thought?
2. Are there ways that you would say you have been persecuted in your life? Explain.

**Digging Deeper**

**Read Acts 4:23-31:**

1. Also read Psalms 2. How does this Scripture passage set in the context of Acts 4 help these early Christians understand and deal with their own situation?
2. How did this group of people demonstrate their commitment to God, one another, and their community through this prayer?
3. What were the main requests of their prayer? Notice the centrality of God, not self in the prayers.
4. If you were to teach this prayer as a model for how we are to pray, what main points would you communicate to your students?
5. How does this prayer communicate an understanding of human responsibility in the midst of the sovereignty of God?
6. The believers are filled with the Holy Spirit in v. 31. We know that many of them were filled before in Acts 2. What does this tell us about the term “filled” and also the Spirit’s work in our lives?
7. The Holy Spirit did not come on them automatically but in a response to expectant prayer. What does this communicate to us regarding our prayer lives?

**Take Home**

1. How do you or can you incorporate scripture into your prayers?
2. Are there ways that living as a Christian opens you up to persecution?
3. Who or what is opposing your witness or your church’s witness for Christ?
4. Boldness has been described as action despite fear, is there a way the Holy Spirit is stirring your heart toward boldness?
5. How can we develop a greater sense of community and unity?
6. How can you demonstrate God’s coming kingdom in your life?

**Pray**

Using the young church’s prayer (Acts 4:24-30) as your example, pray about opposition to the gospel message, both in your own area and throughout the world.