

Group/Individual Study

Series - Hope that Moves: Bold Prayers

Passages: Acts 4:23-31

REFLECT on the message heard on Sunday, 9/16

1. How would you define “boldness” as a follower of Jesus? Give examples of various types. Have you ever seen offensive or unloving behavior by believers mislabeled as “boldness?” How do you know the difference between this kind of “boldness” and the real deal?
2. Read Acts 4:23-31. What was the apostles response to all the threats the Sanhedrin had made against them? Why do you think they took it to prayer? What do you think that time of prayer--and God’s response to it--accomplished in them?
3. How do you think the act of sharing the threats made against them with the larger body of believers helped Peter and John? When you are under duress in life or in your faith, who are the believers you are likely to reach out to and share it with? Can you tell about a time when their support enabled you to get through a tough time?
4. What do you think is the relationship between prayer and being able to live courageously and boldly for the Lord? Explain why you think this is so.
5. The apostles received threats and their first reaction was prayer with the Body. How early in the process when you are hard pressed by life do you turn to prayer? (Is it a first resort? A last resort after you’ve tried everything else?) How is it different when you face a situation that needs courage and boldness, but do so “with Jesus” rather than “for Jesus?”
6. After taking hard things to prayer, have you ever felt peace well up--even though your circumstances haven’t changed? Give your thoughts and reflections on:
 - a. These words from the old hymn: “O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear; All because we do not carry, Everything to God in prayer!”
 - b. These words from a wise Christian woman: “Why pray, when we can worry about it.” ;)