

The Unstoppable Church – Environment

Acts 4:23-31 • August 22, 2021

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I. WHAT DOES THE CHURCH DO UNDER PRESSURE?

They raised their voices in prayer to God.

— Acts 4:24

“Prayer and testimony are the fuel of revival.” — Henry Blackaby

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one. — Acts 4:25-26 quoting Psalm 2:1-2

B. Consider this answer:

They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

— Acts 4:28

C. God is over the chaos of persecution and has good purposes contained in it.

“I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

— Matthew 16:18

II. WHAT KIND OF ENVIRONMENT MAKES THE CHURCH UNSTOPPABLE?

A. Having the right words

Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

— Acts 4:29

Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains.

Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

— Ephesians 6:19-20

B. Accessing God’s power

Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.

— Acts 4:30

With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. — Acts 4:33

We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

— 2 Corinthians 1:8 - 9

The Lord said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

— 2 Corinthians 12:9

C. Relying on each other

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had... and God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them.

— Acts 4:32–34

D. Demonstrating Supernatural Love

“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you... Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

— Luke 6:27-28, 31

After they prayed... The place where they were meeting was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit. They spoke the word of God boldly.

— Acts 4:31

• None of that would have happened without pressure.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us... in accordance with the will of God.

— Romans 8:26-27