



# New Testament Prayers For The Church

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## Study 10

East Taieri Presbyterian Church

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There are many prayers in the New Testament and there is value for us in studying them. In particular, in these studies, we will not consider the need for prayer or how to pray. Our focus is: What did they pray about?

**What are the prayer concerns and priorities of the apostles?**

**What sort of church were they wanting to see?**

**What might happen if we consistently prayed these prayers for our own church?**

**If these prayers were answered, what would the church/individuals look like?**

**What is their significance for our own growth?**

It is strongly recommended that you go through the studies by yourself before you meet as a group. Pray and study asking God to reveal wonderful things to you.

Then, when you do meet, you will be able to share the insights God has given people rather than just start your thinking.

Each study follows the following sequence:

- Observe
  - This is just about noticing the facts. Look carefully at what the Bible actually says. We are not yet interpreting it – just noticing it.
  - This is the “What?” question.
- Understand
  - What is the meaning and significance of what you have observed?
  - This is the “So what?” question.
- Apply
  - We are to be “doers of the word” (James 1:22). How will you put this teaching into action?
  - This is the “What now?” question.

There are resources on prayer at <https://sites.google.com/view/christianspirituality/spiritual-practices/prayer>.

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# Study 10 – Enable Your Servants To Speak

## Introductory Discussion

1. What do you think are the biggest hindrances to evangelistic effectiveness?

## Observe

Read Acts 4:23-31

2. Summarise the events leading up to this passage in Acts 3 and 4.

3. What two things did the believers pray for?

## Understand

4. What might have been the thoughts and feelings of these believers at this time, given what had happened to Jesus and, now, to Peter and John?

5. They faced two realities:

- a. Jesus meant everything to them and they had been commissioned to share the good news.

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**b. They had been commanded not to speak in Jesus' name.**

**Write down all the ways you can think of for resolving that tension.**

Which one did they choose?

**6. What indicates that they were not necessarily naturally bold?**

**7. What do you think motivated them to pray for boldness?**

**8. Look at each of these passages: Acts 9:28; 13:46; 14:3; 18:26; 19:8; 29:31, 2 Corinthians 3:12.  
Why do you think the writers so frequently mentioned their boldness?**

Re-read Acts 4:29-31

**9. What was the other thing the believers prayed for (v.30)?**

**10. What does each of these passages say about the relationship between the words proclaimed and the miracles God did?**

a. Mark 16:20

b. Acts 14:3

c. Hebrews 2:1-4

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d. Acts 2:22

**11. Is it still God's plan to confirm Christians' words by signs and wonders? Give reasons for saying "yes" and reasons for saying "no".**

Yes



No

**12. Write a description of the life of a church in which people prayed the Acts 4:29-20 prayer regularly and saw God answering it.**

**How do you feel about praying it regularly?**

**13. What is the significance of v.31?**

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## Apply

14. If you feel you can, pray the Acts 4:29-30 prayer.

15. Appendix 2 contains a summary of the things the Apostles prayed for. Pick out another one and pray that too.

16. Use that summary as a basis for regular prayer. Use the prayers as expressed in the Bible or paraphrase them.