



# Oakwood

---

## CHURCH

## November 22 Discussion Questions

### “Prevailing Prayer”

#### Acts 4:23-31

### *Preview*

#### **3 Practices of Prevailing Prayer:**

1. Acknowledge God’s Sovereign **Glory** (v. 24a)

*“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.”*

- o The Creator has absolute **Authority** over His creation (v. 24b)

2. **Align** with God’s Sovereign Will (v. 26-28; Ps. 2:1-2)

*“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”*

- o Opposing Jesus is the ultimate **Folly** (Ps. 2:9,12)
- o Serving Jesus is the ultimate **Blessing** (Ps. 2:11-12)

3. Ask for God’s Sovereign **Power** (v. 29)

*“Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”*

- o **Pray** in humble, unified, obedient faith (v. 24,31)

*“For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”*

## **Connect**

1. What is your ideal Thanksgiving dinner menu, including main dish, side dishes, and desserts?
2. What are you especially thankful for this year?

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

### **Discuss**

3. What is the setting for this passage? What happened to Peter and John?
4. Who did Peter and John go to after they were released? Who do you go to first with difficult news? Why is it so important to have dear friends like this?
5. What was the first response of the gathered believers in v.24? What does this communicate about their hearts?
6. Why do we often neglect prayer? Where are you on the scale of prayer being your first response as opposed to your last resort? Give examples from your life.
7. What Old Testament passage do the disciples cite in v.25-26? What's the main point of Psalm 2? How does it relate to and encourage these believers?
8. The Apostle Paul never prayed for healing, and here the disciples don't pray for protection. How does this strike you? How does it influence the way you pray?
9. According to v.28, the disciples had a supreme view of God's sovereignty in life and death. Henry Martyn said, "*I am immortal until God's work for me to do is done.*" How is God's sovereignty tied to boldness? Does this inspire boldness in you?
10. While the disciples pray for boldness in v.29-30, what expectation do they have of God to act? While you may or may not believe God carries out such miraculous manifestations today, do you have confidence that God will act when you boldly act?
11. What happened after the disciples finished praying? What does it mean for us to experience a filling of God's boldness today? Can you have assurance that He indeed answers such a prayer?

### **Apply**

12. What would be different in the way you lived your life if God granted you more "divine boldness?"
13. How has your prayer life been challenged by this passage? Have you viewed God as more of a vending machine or a means to an end? What do you want to change?

### **Pray**

Spend time praying as a group for boldness over the fears you each face.

## **Church-Wide Prayer Focus, from the Prayer Team**

**Personal Prayer Focus:** Pray we would continue to speak God's Word with boldness in spite of opposition. Acts 4:29

**Ministry Prayer Focus:** Pray for our church to experience abundant gratitude in the Lord as they gather with family for Thanksgiving. Pray especially for those hit hardest by the unique challenges of 2020, including those who are lonely or depressed this time of the year.