

Acts of the Apostles 4:23-33 _ Lesson 13

Apostolic Prayer and Power

1. Acts 4:23-30 – The Apostles’ Report and Prayer

- a. The apostles were given power/authority by God – Matt 19:28, 28:18; Ac 1:8
- b. 4:20 -“*we have seen and heard*” – Concerning prophecy - 2 Pet 1:15-19
- c. 4:25-26 is a quote from Ps 2:1 telling us Christ = Anointed = Messiah Jo 1:41
- d. The Psalm is applied to Herod, Pilate, Gentiles, and Israel who were against Jesus
- e. “*holy child Jesus*” – Often used to glorify the crèche, but it speaks of the king
- f. “*they counsel determined before*”- Speaking about prophecy (not Calvin) Ac 3:18
- g. They did not pray for deliverance, but for boldness and power, signs, wonders
 - i. They were bold. So was Paul – 2 Cor 11:21; Rom 15:15
 - ii. Paul prays for boldness to speak the mystery – Eph 6:19-20
- h. Note the Apostles’ prayer and that the historic creed is missing Paul’s gospel

2. Acts 4:31-33 – One Heart and Soul

- a. “When they had prayed” – An immediate response - Isa 65:24
- b. One accord (2:46; 4:24; 5:12), one place (2:1), one heart (4:32), one soul (4:32)
- c. This was according to prophecy, “one way” – Eze 11:19; Jer 32:39
- d. Paul’s “one’s” are doctrinal – Eph 4:3-4, and are an exhortation – Ro 15:5-6
- e. “*great power gave witness*” – as they were to do - Ac 1:8, 1 Cor 15:51, Ac 13:31
- f. “*great grace...*” – grace came by Christ – John 1:17, they all had grace – 1 Pet 1:10
- g. Paul had a different grace given – Rom 12:3,6; 1 Co 3:10; Gal 2:9; Eph 3:2-9; 4:7

The Apostles' Creed

The Apostle's creed is said to be the oldest creed in the church, and the simplest form of what the early apostles taught. The form we have today comes from the 7th c, and before that in shorter form in the 4th c. Some phrases are found in scripture and in the 2nd c. writings. This matches what the twelve apostles taught, but notice that the Pauline gospel of the grace of God is missing.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.