



Mike Mozingo
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Week 1

Prayer is the living conversation between the human soul and God—an act of trust where we open our hearts, align our will with His, and draw strength, guidance, and peace from His presence. It is not merely words spoken, but a sincere reaching toward God, where faith listens as much as it speaks, and where transformation begins.

A SIMPLE GUIDE FOR PRAYER:

A - Adoration

- Praising God for His character, holiness, and greatness.
- Focus on who God is (Creator, Savior, Lord) and His wonderful works.

C - Confession

- Honest agreement with God about sins and shortcomings.
- Asking for forgiveness and the strength to change.

T - Thanksgiving

- Expressing gratitude for God's grace, mercy, and provisions.
- Reflecting on blessings and what God has done for you.

S - Supplication

- Praying for your own needs and the needs of others (intercession).
- Making specific requests known to God.

PETER AND JOHN BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Acts 4:1-22 NLT

THE EARLY CHURCH – PRAYED FOR COURAGE, NOT COMFORT

The Believers Pray for Courage

²³ As soon as they were freed, Peter and John returned to the other believers and told them what the leading priests and elders had said. ²⁴ When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God:

"O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—²⁵ you spoke long ago by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant, saying, 'Why were the nations so angry? Why did they waste their time with futile plans? ²⁶ The kings of the earth prepared for battle; the rulers gathered together against the Lord and against his Messiah.' ²⁷ In fact, this has happened here in this very city! For Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, your holy servant, whom you anointed. ²⁸ But everything they did was determined beforehand according to your will. ²⁹ And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus." ³¹ After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:23-31 NLT

- ... *"all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God"*.
- Bold prayer comes from people filled with the Holy Spirit, not fear.
- The Church doesn't need safety to thrive — it needs the Spirit's power.
- When we pray for boldness, God fills us and sends us.

BIG PRAYERS WE CAN PRAY AS WE MOVE TOWARDS GOD'S PLANS:

- *"God, change my heart, not just my habits. Make me more loving, patient, and courageous—even when it's uncomfortable."*
- *"Help me become the kind of person who reflects Your character, not just someone who avoids doing wrong."*
- *"Show me the purpose You created me for, and give me the courage to walk toward it, even if I'm afraid."*
- *"Use my life to make a difference beyond myself—in ways I can't even imagine yet."*
- *"Even if the answer looks different than I expect, help me trust You completely."*
- *"Teach me to rely on You more than on my own understanding."*
- *"Jesus, I surrender my life to you and ask you to save me from my sins, myself, and what I deserve."*