WHEN THE PRESSURE IS ON

Acts 4:23-31

- When the pressure is on, our reflex response should be to **PRAY** together. 4:23-24a

- When the pressure is on, we should pray through the lens of…

  - God's **SOVEREIGNTY** as our Creator.

  - **SCRIPTURE**. 4:10-11

  - Jesus' **PURPOSEFUL** suffering.

  - Our **MISSION** over comfort.

  - Jesus' **POWER**.

- God hears our **PRAYERS** and His Spirit empowers us to speak **BOLDLY**.

October 25, 2026 – Nathanael King

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. Read Acts 4:23–24. When the pressure is on, what is your reflex response? What would help you turn to prayer sooner?
2. Peter and John returned to other believers, and they prayed together. What makes it difficult to share your struggles and ask others to pray with you? Who could you invite to pray with you this week?
3. Read Acts 4:24. How does knowing God as your sovereign Creator encourage both humility and confidence in prayer? Think of a situation you're facing: how might this truth change what you ask for or the way you pray?
4. Read Acts 4:25–28. How did Psalm 2 help these believers understand the opposition they faced? When you're under pressure, what tends to shape your perspective most? What passage of Scripture could help shape your prayers in that situation?
5. Read Acts 4:27–28. How does God's purpose in Jesus' suffering give us reason to trust him in our own? What makes that trust difficult when we cannot see what God is doing? (See also 2 Corinthians 4:16–18.)
6. Read Acts 4:29. What stands out about what these believers asked God to do? What does the struggle to prioritize comfort over our mission look like in your life? What would it look like to prioritize Jesus' mission over your comfort?
7. Read Acts 4:30. How does this request show their dependence on Jesus' power? Is there a person or situation you've become discouraged about praying for? How could confidence in Jesus' power renew your prayers without assuming how he will answer?
8. Read Acts 4:31. How did God answer their request for boldness? What is the difference between depending on the Holy Spirit and simply trying harder to be courageous? What might that dependence look like?
9. Which emphasis from this prayer do you most need right now: God's sovereignty, Scripture, Jesus' purposeful suffering, mission over comfort, or Jesus' power? Share one specific step of obedience you need courage to take, then spend time praying for one another.

"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now… Come further up, come further in!" — C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle