

Message from God's Life-Giving Word

October 21, 2018

Big CHURCH – big PRAYERS

**Enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.
Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders
through the name of your holy servant Jesus.**

Other than Jesus, name someone who was crucified by Rome:

1. Insiders vs Outsiders:

- Why do people leave the church?

2. A CHURCH of prayer, boldness and generosity:

Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness [courage, confidence]. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus. Acts 4:29-30

* Your _____ follows your _____

3. big CHURCH – big PRAYERS

Next Steps

1. Do churches tend to focus on the “reached” or the “unreached”? Do most people who leave the church and never return do so because of the way they were treated or because of theological differences? How can you ensure that you don't become too insider-focused at the expense of becoming insensitive to outsiders?
2. Journal about the boldest prayer you've ever prayed? What happened as a result of that prayer? Now read Acts 4. What would your prayers have sounded like in response to threats from local authorities? Given the church's response in verses 32-35, is there a connection between boldness and generosity?
3. God invites us to pray for many things, including the daily aspects of our lives. But if the early church provides us a model for prayer, then God also invites us to pray with boldness . . . to pray big, bold, God-honoring prayers. Pray the prayer at the top of the page this week and see what doors God opens for you to be bold.

REMEMBER: *Your time in daily devotion and prayer is not just for your benefit. It's also for the benefit of others. Share what God is teaching you.*