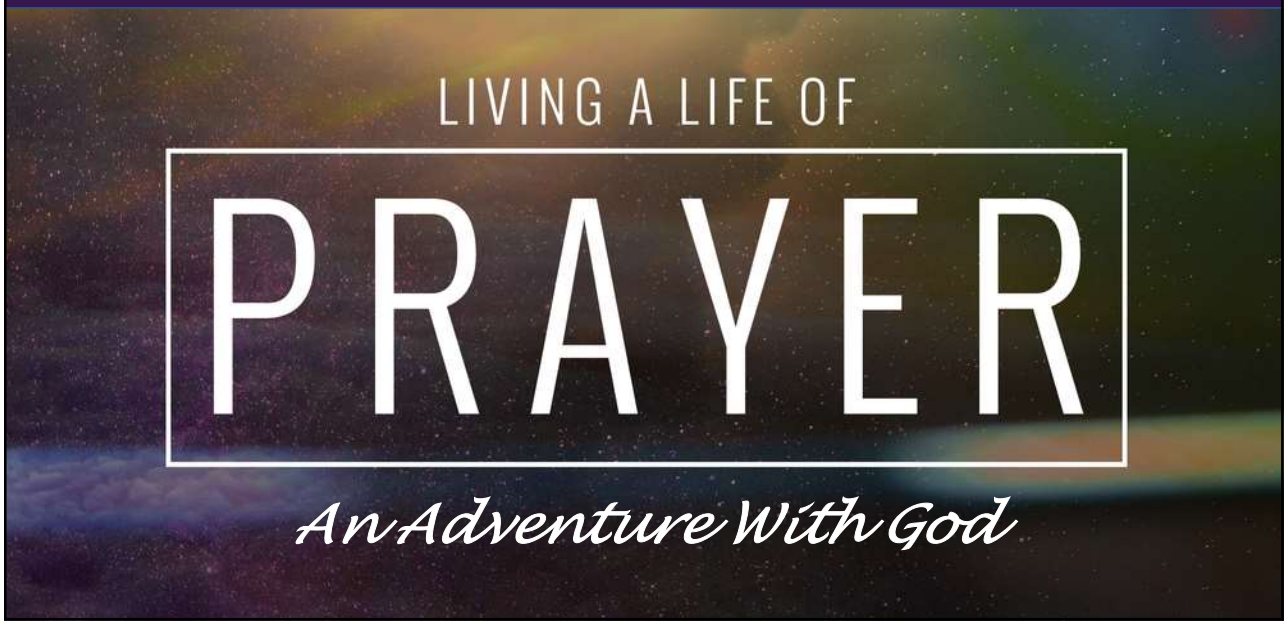
SRMBC FAMILY BIBLE STUDY



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Bible Study Schedule September 2021

Date	Study Title	Scriptures
9/8/2021	Discovering God's Will - Moses	Exodus 32:1-14
9/15/2021	Relying on God - David	Psalm 5
9/22/2021	Praying Together - The Early Church	Acts 4:23-31
9/29/2021	Praying with Confidence - Jesus	Luke 11:1-13

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This Week's Lesson – September 22, 2021

Prayer: Our Adventure With God

Lesson 3:

Praying Together - The Early Church

Acts 4:23-31

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Introduction To The Book Of Acts

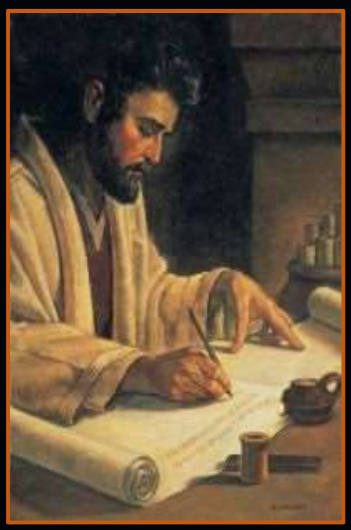
Author: **Luke, a companion of the apostle Paul, wrote the books of Luke and Acts** (Luke 1:1–4 and Acts 1:1–3)

Date of Writing: **Between AD 61 and 64.**

Purpose of Writing: **Also known as the Acts of the Apostles was written to provide a history of the early church.**

Practical Application:

- **Both Jews and Gentiles are united in the New Covenant of grace by faith in Christ.**
- **God can do amazing things through ordinary people when He empowers them through His Spirit.**
- **We must faithfully proclaim the gospel and trust God for the results.**



Luke – The Gentile Physician

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Overview of Acts 2 – 4

The Disciples Are Filled With The Holy Spirit

Peter Preaches The Gospel To The Jews At Pentecost

3000 People Receive Christ And Are Baptized

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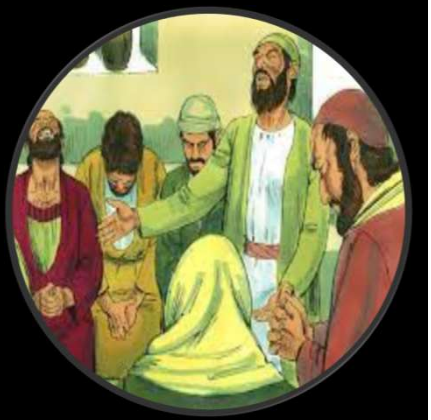
Overview of Acts 2 – 4

Peter And John Heal A Beggar At The Temple Gate

Peter And John Arrested And Threatened By The Sanhedrin



Peter And John Released And Encouraged The Church To Pray

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Read Acts 4:23 – 31

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1. What does the passage teach us about the unity of the believers?

- **Unified Concern For Others:** We must be concerned for those who suffer for God's sake.
- **Unified Conviction To the Word/Gospel:** We need to know the Word and the purpose of the Gospel.
- **Unified Call To Prayer To God:** We need to pray in the same spirit so we can pray on one accord.
- **Unmistakable Answers by God:** As we seek God will in prayer, He will answer us in amazing ways.
- **Unwavering Commitment To Work of God**: Prayer helps us to continue God's work despite opposition.

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2. How can praying with other Christians build unity in the face of temptation or trial?

- **Unity Through Intimacy: It's particularly difficult to be dishonest in open prayer to God.**
- **Unity In Authenticity: To pray together demands genuine unity.**
- **Unity Of Priority: Praying together cements the aims of the group - for God to be at work.**

"praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—" Eph. 6:18 (NKJV)

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3. What can we learn from verses 24-28 to help us understand such situations?

- **God is sovereign (or in ultimate control) over all circumstances.**
- **God's purposes are not defeated by the political, military or governments opposed to Him.**
- **God even used the unlawful crucifixion of Christ to bring about His purpose in namely salvation.**
- **God's purposes help us to see that our persecution and trials are not an overwhelming threat.**

Note: The scripture quoted vv. 25 – 26 in the prayer is from Psalm 2

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4. Look at the requests in verses 29-30. What do they teach us about the believers' priorities and attitudes?

- **The Overcoming Position In God: They didn't pray for their personal protection but instead for boldness in witness.**
- **The Overall Mission Of God: The believers did not lose sight of the mission God had for them.**
- **The Overcoming Supernatural Godly Provision: Believers need to depend on the power of God to do His will.**

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord…." I Cor. 15:58 (NKJV)

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5. What aspects of God's character seem to be in the minds of the believers as they pray?

- **Omnipotence – All Power: They see God's power and authority as Creator as above all things.**
- **Omniscience – All Knowing: They see that God's sees and is fully aware of everything and everyone.**
- **Omnipresence – Everywhere Present: They believe God is available to hear us when we pray and will answer.**

"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts." Ps. 145:3 – 4 (NKJV)

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6. How might concentrating on the character of God have helped the believers to gain perspective on the persecution they faced?

- **Focus On God's Potential Results:** Focus on the potential results that God wants to bring into your life.
- **Focus On God's Priorities:** God's priorities keeps us from being derailed from living your life mission and purpose.
- **Focus On God's Perspective:** Looking at things from an eternal perspective keeps us losing our joy.
- **Focus On God's Good News:** Focus on the good news of all that God has done for you through Jesus.

"all things work together for good to those who love God…" Rom 8:28 (NKJV)

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7. Sometimes we can be surprised by how God answers our prayers. Why do you think this is?

- **Our Insufficient Faith:** Our faith sometimes is small – fortunately it only takes small faith to see God move.
- **Our Inadequate Knowledge:** Our small minds can only see a limited view, but God's ways are so much higher.
- **God's Inexhaustible Ways:** God has so many ways to answer prayers – sometimes He desires to "show off" to display His glory.

Note: An earthquake was often understood in the Old Testament to indicate God's presence (Ex 19:18; Is 6:4).

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8. The Holy Spirit enabled the church to be bold. How does this compare with our desires for an experience with the Spirit?

Negative Desires

- **Our Desire For An "Experience" Of God Can Be Selfish Power For Us.**
  - **To Satisfy Our Own Sense Of Spiritual Well-being.**
  - **To Get Accolades And Praise For Ourselves.**

"Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures." Jam. 4:2 – 3 (NKJV)

LIVING A LIFE OF PRAYER Our Adventure With God

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8. The Holy Spirit enabled the church to be bold. How does this compare with our desires for an experience with the Spirit?

Positive Desires

- **Seeking God To Be Better Equipped To Serve Him And Witness To Christ.**
- **Seeking His Gift Of The Spirit To Make Us And The Church Become More Christlike.**
- **Seeking His Gift To Empower Us To Equip Us To Fulfill The Great Commission.**

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it…Now eagerly desire the greater gifts." (I Cor. 12:27, 31a)

LIVING A LIFE OF PRAYER Our Adventure With God

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Keys For Living

- **The more we focus on the various aspects of God's character the better we will be able to deal with persecution and trials.**
- **As we face challenges that seem too much for us, God will grant us a Spirit of boldness and power when we pray.**
- **There is nothing more powerful than a group of believers that comes together in the Name of Jesus to pray.**

LIVING A LIFE OF PRAYER
Our Adventure With God

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