

Big Prayers

Big Church, Part 2

Acts 4:11-32

Pastor Ken Ritz * July 7, 2013 * New Life Vineyard Church

Review

- Ekklesia: assembly or gathering (Greek)
- The church started as a _____,
not a location,
not a building,
not an institution.

How a church _____, shows whether it has _____.

People who pray self-centered _____
tend to start acting like self-centered _____.

Acts 4, Verses 11-14

Jesus is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.'

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved."

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.

The First Recorded Prayer of the New Church

Verse 24

When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God.

"Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

"Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.'

Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

The Two Requests

Verse 29

Now, Lord, consider their threats and 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."

The Result

Verse 31

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.

**All scriptures from TNIV unless otherwise noted*