



**Big Idea:**  
**Our primary method for sharing Christ is prayer.**

**1.) We pray because God is *ALL POWERFUL* (v. 23-28).**

**-- Theology matters immensely in prayer.**

-- If we want fullness of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we need the depth of His truth in our minds.

-- Declarations of God's power and praise are not just prayed for God's glory, but for our own good.

**-- In response to persecution (v. 18-21), the disciples focus on God's purposes and preeminence (v. 25-28, Romans 8:31).**

-- v. 26-28 – The *CROSS* of Christ is the ultimate example of God's inevitable vindication.

-- The better we understand God's sovereignty, the more emboldened we will be in evangelism.

**2.) We pray because we need *POWER* from God (v. 29-31).**

-- v. 23 – "...their friends..." – This is not a prayer for super apostles, but for every believer.

**-- v. 29-30 – In the face of opposition (v. 18-21), the disciples pray for power for ministry and boldness in proclaiming the Gospel.**

-- Prayer is urgent because obstacles to the Gospel are enormous.

-- Prayer is vital because our inclination apart from the Spirit is to cower and be quiet.

**-- v. 31 – It is by the *HOLY SPIRIT* that believers are empowered to share Christ boldly (Acts 1:8).**

**3.) We pray because God gives the *SPIRIT* in response (v. 31).**

**-- What does it mean to be "filled by the Spirit?"**

1.) This phrase does not mean acquiring something we don't already have (Romans 8:9).

-- Anyone who is not indwelt by the Holy Spirit is not a Christian.

2.) Being filled with the Spirit is not the same as baptism with the Spirit.

-- Baptism of the Holy Spirit happens at the very moment of sincere salvation.

-- Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the seminal act by which Jesus Christ places us into the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13).

3.) Being filled with the Spirit means experiencing and employing more perfectly the power of the Holy Spirit in us.

-- The more we are "filled with the Spirit," the more we will think and act and live in the power and likeness of Christ.

- Fullness in the Holy Spirit is not something we can achieve; it is something God must give.
- **God gives the fullness of the Spirit in response to the *PRAYERS* of the church (v. 31).**
  - There are many similarities between this event and Pentecost (Acts 1:14-2:11).
  - Pentecost is not unique as an outpouring of the Spirit to empower the church for witness.
  - In both events, God does all of this in response to the prayers of His people (Luke 11:13).
  - What we need most in evangelism (what any church needs most in evangelism) is an *OUTOURING* of the Holy Spirit.

## **Our Response**

- God wants all men to be saved (John 3:16, 2 Peter 3:9).
- God wants all believers to pray for the salvation of the lost and the advance of the Gospel (Matthew 9:36-38, 1 Timothy 2:1, 3-4).
- Conclusion: God has chosen to *DRAW* sinners to salvation in accordance with the prayers of His people.
- Therefore, the more we pray for the salvation of others, the more we will witness salvation in Christ (James 4:2).
- **The Prayer Emphasis of the REACH Mentality**
  - The first 5-10 minutes of every Sunday School class will be spent in prayer for prospects.
  - Pray for boldness in inviting and sharing, for the Holy Spirit to go before us as we reach out, for willingness to come, for receptivity to the Gospel, and for salvation in Jesus Christ.