

Prayer – Tapping into God’s Power
“With A Little Help From My Friends”

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / February 22, 2026

Acts 4:23-31 “When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, ‘Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, ²⁵ who through the mouth of our father David, Your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, “Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶ The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed”— ²⁷ for truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your plan had predestined to take place. ²⁹ And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to Your servants to continue to speak Your word with all boldness, ³⁰ while You stretch out Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.’ ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: **Thanks Be To God!**

I. Jesus doesn’t just tell us to pray. He expects us to pray together.

Matthew 6:7-13 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. ⁹ Pray then like this: ‘**Our Father** in heaven, hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ **Give us** this day our daily bread, ¹² and **forgive us** our debts, as **we also** have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And **lead us** not into temptation, but **deliver us** from evil.’”

A. When Jesus teaches us to pray, He teaches us to pray together. He could’ve said “My Father,” but He didn’t. He gave us a family prayer instead.

B. The Lord’s Prayer assumes...

- a. We share a heavenly Father. (Matt. 6:9)
- b. We share a need for “daily bread.” (Matt. 6:11)
- c. We share a need to receive and extend forgiveness. (Matt. 6:12)
- d. We share a need for help in temptation and deliverance from evil. (Matt. 6:13)

II. The early church prayed together instinctively—and so should we.

A. They went to their people.

Acts 4:23 “When they were released, **they went to their friends** and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them.”

B. They prayed immediately.

Acts 4:24 “**And when they heard it**, they lifted their voices together to God...”

- a. Oftentimes “I’ll pray for you” is sincere, but ends up becoming spiritual procrastination:

Someone shares something heavy.

We feel/think something.

We say “I’ll pray for you.”

The moment passes.

The urgency fades.

We forget.

No prayer or “catch-up” prayer.

*Saying ‘I’ll pray for you’ is good.
Praying right now is usually better.*

- C. They prayed together.

Acts 4:24 “And when they heard it, **they lifted their voices together to God...**”

- D. They pray honestly.

- a. They start with God. (Acts 4:24-25)
- b. They name the threat. (Acts 4:26-27)
- c. They acknowledge God’s sovereign plan. (Acts 4:28)
- d. They ask for boldness. (Acts 4:29)
- e. They ask for God’s power to work among them. (Acts 4:30)

- E. God met them with answered prayer.

Acts 4:31 “And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and **they were all filled** with the Holy Spirit and **continued to speak the word of God with boldness.**”

III. We are family—and we should pray with each other whenever & however we can.

6 Ways To Grow in Praying Together

1. You need people.
 - a. Join a Community Group.
 - b. Get on a Serve Team.
 - c. Ask your Campus Pastor for your best next step.
2. Start praying immediately — not just eventually.
3. Be together in prayer — even when you’re apart.
(Slack. Zoom. Phone. Text. Be creative.)
4. Keep it real.

5. Keep it short.

*Short & frequent beats long & rare.
Frequent dependence beats rare intensity.*

6. Try & fail — but don't fail to try.

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. How does “Our Father” reshape how you think about prayer?
2. What is your instinct in pressure — and how does Acts 4 challenge it?
3. What keeps you from praying immediately with others?
4. Do you view prayer as rare intensity or frequent dependence?
5. Where can you practice praying with others this week?