

## BE the Church: Learning to be God-Dependers

(Acts 4:1-22)

Pitiful prayer is not to be confused with *simple prayer* or *prayers of lament*, the trap of pitiful prayer is when we become tentative or feeble with our prayers - pulling back in fear rather than pushing forward in faith.

1. What are the current areas of resistance in your life?
  - a) Personally
  - b) Relationally
  - c) Professionally
  
2. Have you ever asked: "*If the church was God's idea, why doesn't he make it easy?*" What circumstances prompted this question?

### Three Steps for Praying out of Power, not Pity.

(Acts 4:23-31)

#### 1: Share Reports

- a) Do you share reports of the struggles going on? Why or why not?
- b) How we share reports in such a way that the church feels prompted to powerful prayer? (How can we do this while avoiding fear-mongering or wallowing?)

#### 2: Celebrate God's Sovereignty

- a) What are the implications of the statement: "*nothing takes God by surprise*"?
- b) What kind of statements can we declare through prayer to reflect God's sovereignty?

#### 3: Pray for Boldness

- a) Do you spend more time praying *for* things or *against* things?
- b) Do your prayers reflect a healthy recognition of what *God* can do, but also what *you* can do? How might you recalibrate this?
- c) How have you seen your prayer life affecting your evangelism life?

**Action Step:** Pray a prayer that catches your fear off-guard.