



21 DAYS OF PRAYER

17

DAY 17

JANUARY 25, 2023

Jeffrey Tuffour

KEY SCRIPTURES

Acts 4:23–31

Peter and John, having just been released from prison for preaching about Christ, gather the disciples together to pray. Opposition to the good news lends itself to prayer. Opposition to making Jesus known lends itself to encouragement from and for the community. As I was reading the passage in Acts, I couldn't help but think of the call to go and make disciples. This call begins to work itself out as the community of faith extends themselves outside the boundaries of a physical space. This is not easy to do, but we are called to it. "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19, NIV).

The author of Acts paints for us a picture of the power of praying together as a group. God responds to them by shaking the place where

they were meeting. He filled them with the Holy Spirit, who gives them the boldness to continue with their witness. God hears us when we pray, as he continues to build his church. The prayers of the community for those suffering because of the gospel is powerful. In their prayers, they ask for signs and wonders to be seen as a product of their witness in Jesus' name.

I find myself forgetting to pray for the persecuted until I am reminded. Much like John and Peter gathered the believers to pray, I am challenged to gather us to pray for the persecuted church. The persecuted church are members of the church facing threat to their existence. They are currently found all over the world. I have this confidence that God will continue to protect them. I am reminded "Princes, kings, and other rulers of the world have used all their strength and cunning against the Church, yet it continues to endure and hold its own." (John Foxe).

