

Acts 4:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

Analysis

The specific request - 'Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word' - doesn't ask for threat removal but courage to continue despite threats. The Greek 'parrhēsia' (boldness) means frank, fearless speech. They pray not for protection but proclamation, showing kingdom priorities: mission over safety. 'Thy servants' acknowledges their role as bondslaves (Greek 'douloi') - total loyalty to Master overrides fear of consequences.

Historical Context

Ancient culture valued honor and shame highly. Public speech risked ridicule and punishment. Requesting boldness acknowledged natural fear while seeking supernatural courage. This prayer pattern - not circumstances change but character transformation - marks Spirit-filled prayer.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. Do your prayers prioritize mission success over personal comfort and safety?
2. How does identifying as God's 'servant' (slave) free you from fear of human threat?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	τὰ	νῦν	κύριε	ἔπιδε	ἐπὶ	τὰς	ἀπειλὰς	αὐτῶν	καὶ
And	G3588	G3568	Lord	behold	G1909	G3588	threatenings	their	And
G2532			G2962	G1896			G547	G846	G2532
δὸς	τοῖς	δούλοις	σου	μετὰ	παρρήσιας	πάσης			
grant unto	G3588	servants	thy	that with	boldness	all			
G1325		G1401	G4675	G3326	G3954	G3956			
λαλεῖν	τὸν	λόγον	σου						
they may speak	G3588	word	thy						
G2980		G3056	G4675						

Additional Cross-References

Acts 4:13 (Parallel theme): Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Acts 14:3 (Word): Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

Acts 4:31 (Word): And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

2 Timothy 4:17 (References Lord): Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

Philippians 1:14 (Word): And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Acts 28:31 (References Lord): Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

Acts 9:27 (References Lord): But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

Acts 13:46 (Word): Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

Acts 19:8 (Parallel theme): And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

Acts 4:21 (Parallel theme): So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.