Prayer of the Persecuted Church (Acts 4:23-30)
Context – the church began (Acts 2)
<u>Ch. 3</u> – A lame beggar at the temple
Ch. 4 – Peter and John arrested

•	vv. 14-22 –	Intimidated a	nd released b	ov religious	leaders

• vv. 2	3-24 – Rep	ort to their	companions;	1st response:	
---------	------------	--------------	-------------	---------------	--

Content (vv. 24-30)

<u>vv. 24-25</u> – Two	starting points	in prayer:	"Lord'
------------------------	-----------------	------------	--------

• "You are the	(Ps. 146:6) – <i>Lord</i> =
----------------	-----------------------------

• "You wrote the "

<u>vv. 25-28</u> – Ps. 2:1-2 \rightarrow connection with events of _____ passion

- Against the Lord and His _____
- God is in

vv. 29-30 – Their requests: "Lord...__ deal with the opposition"

- "_____ work through Your holy servant Jesus"
- "We desire to _____ Your Word give us _____"

Conclusions

#1 – What is our 1st _____ to persecution?

- ______ vs. ______? Or them vs. ______?
- God's plan: opposition is ⇒ _____

#2 – God's purpose for His church: proclaim the

- _____ didn't change the purpose
- _____ a major part: for boldness / for God to _____ lives

#3 – The power of praying using the _____

- It is praying according to God's (1 Jn. 5:14-15)
- God promises to _____ His Word

#4 – The role of the _____

- _____ of the Holy Spirit \rightarrow _____ for witness (v. 31)
- _____ of the church (vv. 32, 34-35)
- The Lord worked powerfully through the _____ (v. 33)

Discussion Questions: Prayer of the Persecuted Church

- 1. Review Acts 4: 5-20
 - a) List the various things Peter did / said in responding to the persecution of the religious leaders?
 - b) Do the same for the incident described in Acts 5:26-33 and 38-42
 - c) Compare the above with Peter's teaching in:

1 Peter 2:18-24

1 Peter 4:12-19

1 Peter 5:8-10

d) Summarize your study in the form of some practical, personal insights.

2. What is *one thing* you definitely want to take away with you from today's message?

How do you plan to follow through on that one thing?