

THE POWER OF A CHANGED LIFE

Sustaining Refreshment ACTS 4:23-31

I. SUSTAINING REFRESHMENT is enabled by a safe place to _____.

When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. v. 23

Retreat IN _____ WITH LIKE-MINDED BELIEVERS.

II. SUSTAINING REFRESHMENT is enabled by a trust in God's enduring _____.

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 ... 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, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place." vv. 24, 27-28

Retreat IN _____ TO REMIND YOURSELF OF GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY.

III. SUSTAINING REFRESHMENT is enabled by honest prayers for _____.

"And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 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. vv. 29-31

Retreat IN _____ FOR GOD'S UNSHAKABLE STRENGTH.



Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. v. 32

THE
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LIFE *Home Group Discussion*

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. How does interacting with the world drain our confidence in, and enthusiasm for, the things of God?

2. Read Acts 4:23-31. Why is it significant that the word 'friends' is used here (v. 23), not just the term 'the church'?



"How did the apostles react to the Council's ban and threats? On their release, Luke tells us, they went straight to their own people, their relatives and friends in Christ, reported everything the Council had said to them and then immediately turned together in prayer to God. Here is the Christian *koinōnia* in action. We have seen the apostles in the Council; now we see them in the church. Having been bold in witness, they were equally bold in prayer."

JOHN STOTT

3. How is the apostles' prayer different from what you would expect, after all that Peter and John had been through?

4. After the apostles had been mistreated and challenged by the world, how do we see demonstrated here the ways they were retreated to ...

fellowship?

Scripture?

prayer?

5. How did the believers use the Psalms in their prayer? How does it build our faith to quote Scripture in our prayers?

6. How might you participate in praying more with other believers as a regular habit? How about spending more time daily in the Scriptures?

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."

For more about what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus visit www.ccbcfamily.org/nextsteps.

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! Moms, thank you for teaching, equipping, loving and rejoicing over so many lives in both your own homes and our church family. In celebration of you, we have a special gift! Text "MOM" to 24253 to receive it.

ELDER PRAYER God does extraordinary things when we go to Him in prayer, and we're excited to announce a time for us to do just that with the Elders and their wives! Whether it's simply an encouragement, or we seek God together for healing, this will be an impactful and intentional time with our leadership. Be a part of this special afternoon on Sunday, May 21 at 12:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

CCBC BIG BAND CONCERT Everyone will be tapping their feet to the beat at this year's Big Band Concert, *On The Move*. Come be a part of the summer kickoff event on Friday, June 2 at 7 p.m. as the trumpets belt out captivating tunes for the whole family! To learn more visit www.ccbcfamily.org/bigband.

WOMEN IN THE WORD: OUR FAVORITE STORIES From toddlers to adults, everyone loves stories. Whether we are telling or hearing it, each of us has a favorite one. Ready to have a new favorite? Join Women in the Word this summer as they hear life-changing stories about Jesus and press into knowing Him deeper! Find times, locations and registration by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/wiww.

BAND OF BROTHERS: THE GODLY MAN'S PICTURE Are you looking to grow in your understanding of what it means to be a godly man? Come to Band of Brother's *The Godly Man's Picture*, a six-week study where we will dive into the lives of six different characters from the Bible. Through exploring their stories, we'll discover biblical principles for displaying and defining the image of God in our own lives. This series is designed to equip men with practical tools to live out their faith with courage and impact. Find dates, locations and registration at www.ccbcfamily.org/bob.

BE, MAKE AND REACH WITH LIVE PRODUCTION If you have experience and interest in live production and camera operation, we'd love to chat with you about volunteering with our Production Team. Get the conversation started by visiting @christchapelproduction on Instagram, and send us a message today!

KIDS MINISTRY: SUMMER REFRESHER Are you looking for a Be, Make and Reach opportunity this summer? Join our Summer Refresher Team and help so many of our dedicated Kids Ministry volunteers have a couple Sundays off. When you serve with Kids Ministry, you'll have the opportunity to build into the next generation, proclaim the gospel to eager hearts and serve our church family! Register today by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/refresh.



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—text CCBCONLINE to 833-422-7200 to get started.