

What Happens When God Comes to Church Acts 4:23-31

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1. Church is a place of love and encouragement. It's a place of hugs and handshakes along with words of hope. Our spirits are lifted by the singing. Our hearts are strengthened by our prayers.

a. It is no wonder that David would say of worship: **"I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the LORD." (Psa. 122:1)**

2. But what would church be like if God was not in church? My purpose in attending church is much more than hugs, handshakes, singing, or knowledge. I attend church because I need that time to worship the living God.

3. We should spend time with God every day, but there is something special about meeting God with other believers. Jesus said in **Matt. 18:20, "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."**

4. How can we consistently experience God in our church? From our text, let's examine steps we can follow that will ensure God's presence among His people.

1. Prepare Your Heart To Be With God. (Acts 4:1-23)
 1. Background to the arrest and trial of Peter and John (vv. 1-22).
 2. The release of Peter and John (vv. 19-23).
 3. How can we be prepared to be with God?
2. Give Glory To God. (Acts 4: 24)
 1. The Jerusalem Church proclaimed God's glory.
 2. Ways we can give glory to God.
3. Listen Intently To The Word of God. (Acts 4:25-26)
 1. A. The Jerusalem Church was inspired by God's word.
 2. Ways we can be enriched by hearing God's word.
4. Put Your Focus On Jesus. (Acts 4:27-28)
 1. The Jerusalem Church gave attention to Jesus.
 2. We must give Jesus our attention.
5. Rely On The Power Of Prayer. (Acts 4:29-30)
 1. The Jerusalem Church prayed for God's power in their lives.
 2. We can pray for God's power in the church today.
 3. Third, we must pray with confidence, not cowardice.
6. Expect God To Be Present. (Acts 4:31)
 1. The prayers of the Jerusalem Church were answered quickly!
 2. When we come to church, we should come expectantly!