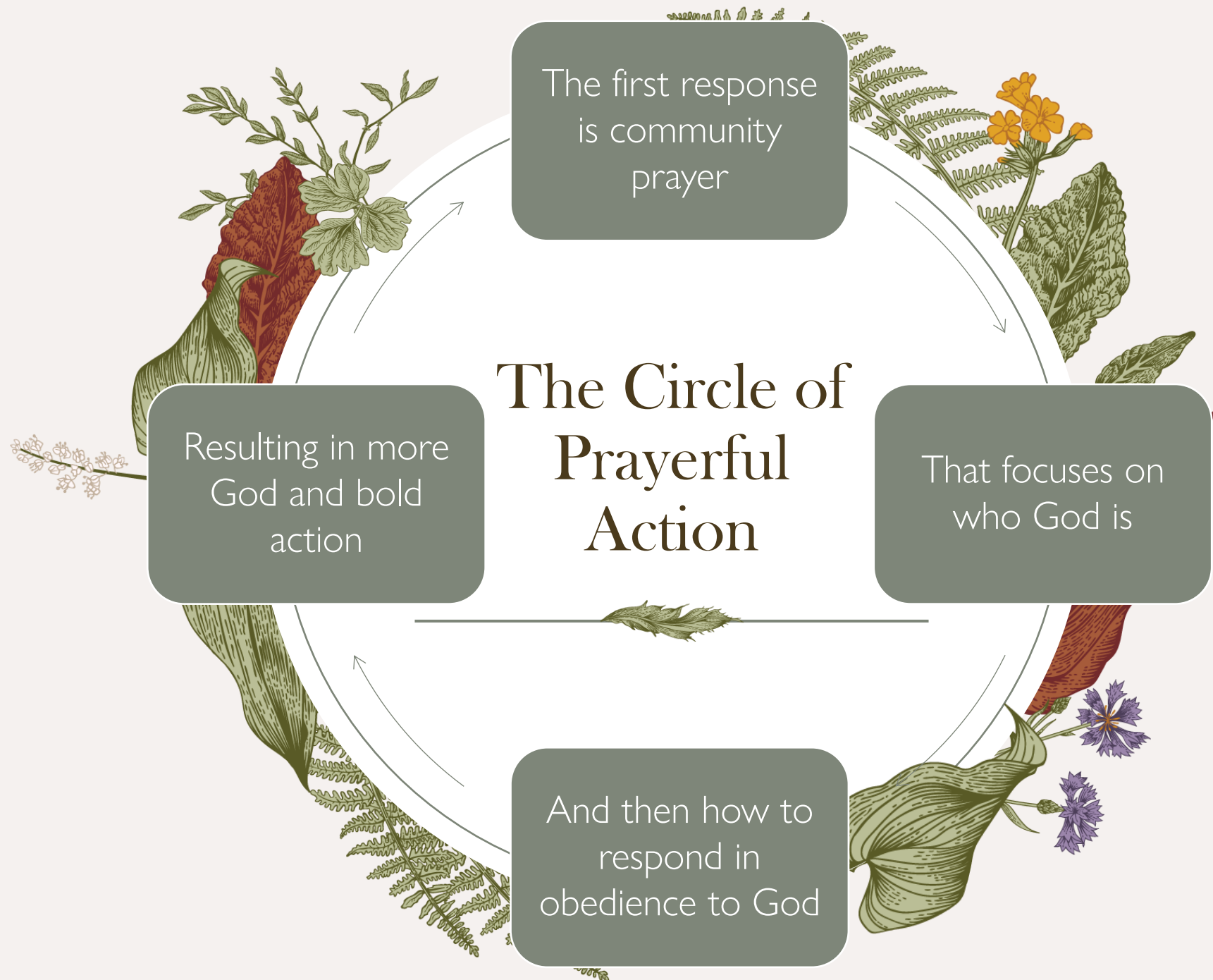


*Acts:
A Christ-Centered, Spirit-Empowered,
Multiethnic Church On Mission*



Sunday, April 6, 2025

Early Church Vignettes: Part 3 – The Circle of Prayerful Action



The first response is
community prayer

Acts 4:23a



When they were released,
they went to their friends and
reported what the chief
priests and the elders had
said to them. And when they
heard it, they lifted their
voices together to God.



Matthew 5:9-12

[9] “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.[10] “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.[11] “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. [12] Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

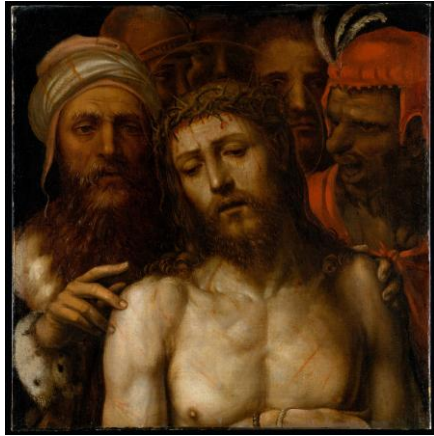


Matthew 5:38-48



[38] “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ [39] But I say to you, **Do not resist the one who is evil.** But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, **turn to him the other also.** [40] And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, **let him have your cloak as well.** [41] And if anyone forces you to go one mile, **go with him two miles.** [42] **Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.**[43] “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ [44] But I say to you, **Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,** [45] so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. [46] For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? [47] And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? [48] You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Romans 5:8



God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.



The first response is
community prayer

Acts 4:23a



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The first response is
community prayer that
focuses on who God is

Acts

4:24b - 28



and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, [25] who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

“Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? [26] The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’—

[27] 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, [28] to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.



The first response is
community prayer that
focuses on who God is
and then how to
respond in obedience
to God

Acts

4:29 - 30



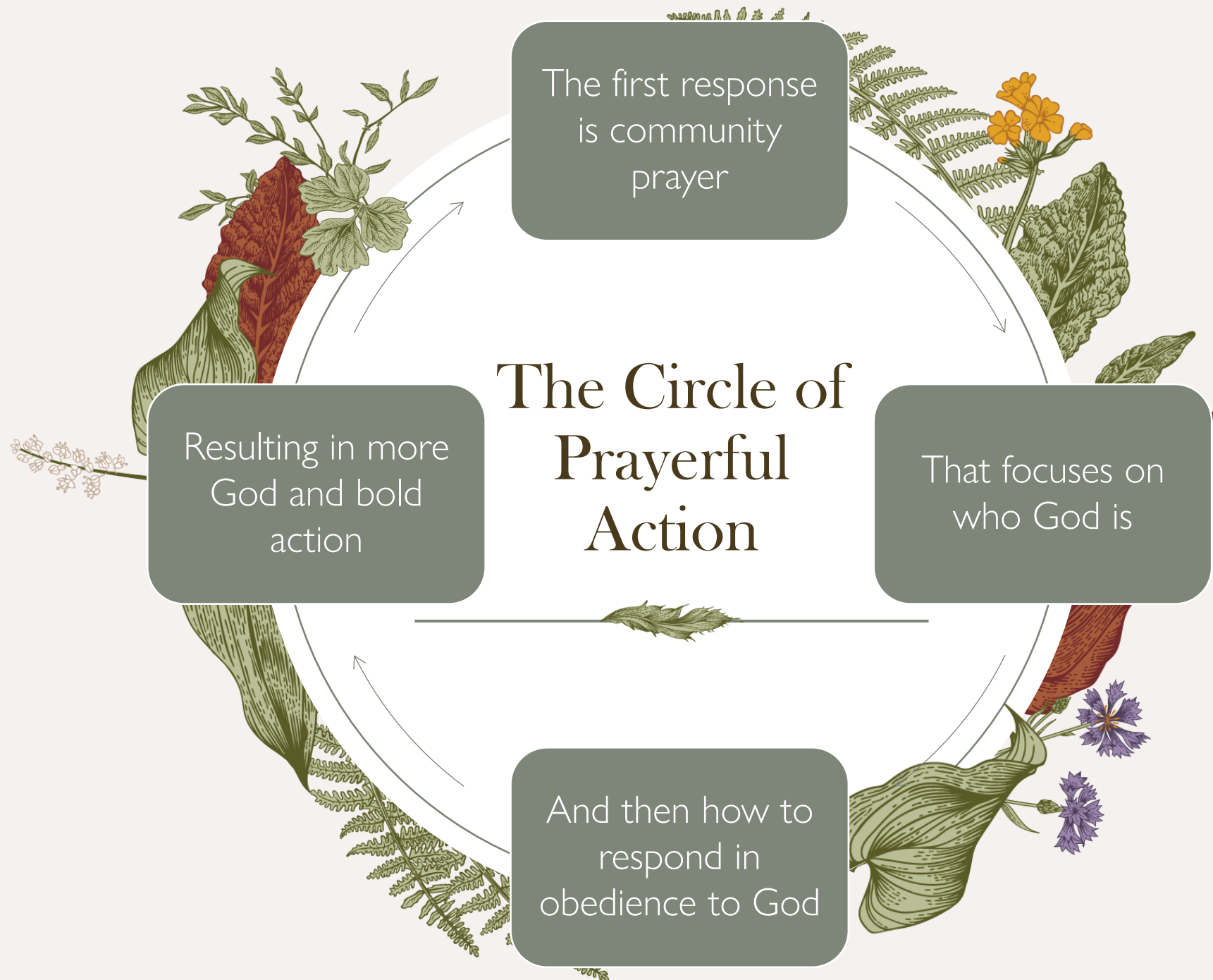
[29] And now, Lord, look
upon their threats and grant
to your servants to continue
to speak your word with all
boldness, [30] while you
stretch out your hand to heal,
and signs and wonders are
performed through the name
of your holy servant Jesus.”

The first response is community prayer that focuses on who God is and then how to respond in obedience to God, resulting in more God and bold action.

Acts 4:31




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.





Application

- 
1. Pray together
 2. Study God's Word together



SECRET  CHURCH

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

April 11 – 6pm to 1am