

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 22ND, 2026 // BOOK OF ACTS

OPPOSITION (ACTS 4:1-7) PETER IS CONFRONTED

After the healing in Acts 3, the religious leaders were upset and confronted Peter because Peter was preaching Jesus. The Sadducees were especially annoyed because they didn't believe in the resurrection, and Peter boldly taught that Jesus was alive.

- **When Christ is boldly proclaimed, not everyone will celebrate.**

PETER AND JOHN ARE ARRESTED

Peter and John were thrown into prison for preaching the gospel, but this didn't surprise them. Jesus had already warned His followers that opposition would come (John 15:18). Despite opposition, the gospel continued to spread!

- **What looked like a setback became a platform for the gospel to spread. Opposition often fuels Kingdom growth.**

PETER AND JOHN FACE THE JEWISH LEADERSHIP

The next day, Peter and John were brought before the Sanhedrin for questioning. This was the same council that had condemned Jesus to death, and it was likely an attempt to intimidate.

- It's easy to follow Jesus when it's safe. **Will we stand firm when it gets difficult?** The Sanhedrin tried to display power, but **real power comes from the Spirit.**

"BY WHAT POWER OR IN WHAT NAME...?"

This question gives Peter and John an open door to share the gospel. They can either cower in fear (as Peter has done before) or speak with courage. Peter didn't know how it would end—he simply knew what he must say.

- When God opens a door, **we must not only go through the door but also trust Him with the outcome.**

EMPOWERED (ACTS 4:8-12)

"PETER WAS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT..."

Luke tells us that Peter was "filled with the Holy Spirit" before he spoke. His boldness didn't come from confidence in himself but from the Spirit empowering him. Being filled with the Spirit isn't a one-time event.

- **If we want courage, clarity, and faithfulness, we must be continually filled with the Holy Spirit.**

THE NAME OF JESUS

Peter says that the man was healed "by the name of Jesus Christ." He also quotes Psalm 118:22 to show them that Jesus was rejected by men—by those leaders—but was exalted by His Father. They thought they removed Jesus, but God raised Him up!

- **God's plan won't stop. God has the final word.**

"THERE IS SALVATION IN NO ONE ELSE..."

The way to salvation is narrow: **Jesus is the only one who can save and give us life.** As Christians, we must speak boldly about this truth. If we suggest there are many ways to be saved, we risk leaving people clinging to what cannot save them.

- **We must proclaim this truth clearly and compassionately.**

BOLDNESS (ACTS 4:13-22)

BOLDNESS AND TIME WITH JESUS

The leaders were amazed at the boldness of these uneducated men. They may not have had formal training, but they were educated in the most important ways—they **knew God's Word and had spent time with Jesus.**

- **Read God's Word and spend time with Jesus—that combination produces courage and conviction.**

DAMAGE CONTROL

The leaders realized Peter and John had been with Jesus. They couldn't deny the public miracle. The leaders were not only concerned with the message but also with shutting down the messengers.

- Opposition often targets the messenger. If we are faithful with sharing the gospel, then we will face opposition.

"WE ARE UNABLE TO STOP SPEAKING OF JESUS"

Peter and John had to speak about what they had seen and heard. They were compelled by the HS and obeyed Jesus' commands to be His witnesses in Jerusalem (Acts 1:8).

- Speaking truth and sharing about what God has done consistently will strengthen our ability to share Jesus in every situation.

PRAYER (ACTS 4:23-31)

PETER AND JOHN RETURN TO THE BELIEVERS

Peter and John returned to the other Believers and shared everything that had happened. And what was their first response? They prayed. For the early Church, **prayer wasn't a last resort. It was their first instinct.** No matter the circumstances, they turned to God.

- **Do we pray without ceasing? In all situations, is prayer our first response?**

ACKNOWLEDGING GOD AS CREATOR

They began their prayer by reminding themselves who they were praying to. They prayed to the Lord of all creation, the God of all power. They prayed with power and confidence because they knew God was in control.

- Reminding ourselves who God is strengthens our soul. Truth about God stabilizes emotions.

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

- The early Church let Scripture shape their prayers. God's Word guided what they prayed. Instead of making something up, **they prayed in response to what God had already said.**
- We need to not only study the Word but respond to it in worship and prayer. Praying Scripture also gives us different perspective on situations.

PRAYING FOR MORE BOLDNESS

The Believers never asked God to spare them from further confrontation or suffering. They prayed for more boldness.

- **We need to pray for boldness and endurance**, not just relief. Instead of always asking, "How do I get out?" what if we asked, "How can You use me here?" r "God, what are you trying to teach me?"

GOD'S RESPONSE

How did God respond to their prayer? The place where they were gathered shook. He filled them with the Holy Spirit, and they went out and spoke the Word of God with boldness.

- **We cannot pour out what we have not first received. We need to be continually filled with the Spirit. How? Continue to surrender all of who we are daily.**

DIFFICULT TIMES

- It's not a matter of if we go through trials but when. How will we respond? Will we respond with courage (John 16:33)? Do we consider it pure joy (James 1:2)?
- It is easy to follow Jesus when things are easy. **Will we stand firm when things get difficult?** This world will continue to get darker. Are we prepared?

CONTINUALLY FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

- Being filled with the Spirit isn't a one-time event. We need to be continually filled.
- If we want to be filled with the Holy Spirit, then we need to read God's Word, spend time praying, and live in community.
- If we're in Christ, we already have the Holy Spirit. **We need to surrender more of us to Him. Are we controlled by the Spirit?**

SHARE THE TRUTH WITH LOVE

- If we identify as Christians, we need to make sure we are good representatives of Him. How we live and speak matters.
- Sharing the truth is important, but **we need need to be compassionate and radiate the love of Jesus while we speak.**
- We must live in such a way that people can say, "they had been with Jesus" (v. 13).

PRAYER FOR BOLDNESS AND ENDURANCE

- When life is calm, we need to pray for boldness and endurance so we are prepared when life gets difficult.
- When life is difficult, we need to ask God, **"What are you trying to teach me?"**
- Our faith should continue to grow with each trial we face. Endurance under pressure also points others to Christ.