

# BOLD IN THE SPIRIT

## ACTS 4:13-22

Text: Acts 4:13

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<sup>13</sup> Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Introduction:

In the first part of Acts 4 we saw Peter in the face of opposition, preaching a message regarding eternal life. There was boldness in the early church brought by the Holy Spirit, which we need in our church today.

Our prayer should be that our church will go on to maturity and greater power as we allow the Holy Spirit to work and lead. I pray that we never take the blessings of God for granted, or lose the hunger for His power and boldness.

Why was the early church a bold church?

# 1. THEY HAD BEEN WITH JESUS (VS. 13)

## Acts 4:13

<sup>13</sup> Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

### A. They Were Not Learned Men

There is no spirituality in ignorance, but many times people glory in their education and become proud and lifted up, rather than humbly acknowledging that every good thing they have comes from God.

### B. They Were Bold In Their Message

# 2. THEY HAD BATTLED THE ENEMY (VS. 14-17)

The Devil is real, and he opposes Christians; but sometimes we label things as spiritual warfare that are not necessarily so.

## Acts 4:14-17

<sup>14</sup> And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. <sup>15</sup> But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, <sup>16</sup> Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them *is* manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny *it*. <sup>17</sup> But

that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.

## A. The Enemy Conspired Against Them

### **Psalms 2:2-3**

<sup>2</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*, <sup>3</sup>Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

## B. The Enemy Threatened Them

Dr Bob Jones Sr. used to say, “The test of a man’s character is what it takes to stop him.” If you give up when the going gets tough, you’ll never become the kind of Christian God wants you to be.

Remember to the Christian all fiery trials and “Father filtered.”

David’s earlier challenges as a young shepherd prepared him for great victories ahead.

### **1 Samuel 17:34-35**

<sup>34</sup>And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father’s sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: <sup>35</sup>And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered *it* out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught *him* by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

### **1 Samuel 17:37**

<sup>37</sup>David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me

out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

### **3. THEY BELIEVED GOD'S PROMISES (VS. 19-22)**

#### **Acts 4:19-22**

<sup>19</sup> But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. <sup>20</sup> For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. <sup>21</sup> So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all *men* glorified God for that which was done. <sup>22</sup> For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.

#### A. They Feared God More than Man

#### **Proverbs 1:7**

<sup>7</sup> The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Despite the threats made against them, they feared disobeying and displeasing God more than being thrown into prison or even losing their life.

#### B. They Spoke of God

The result of the powerful preaching and the boldness of the disciples was that men glorified God.

#### **Acts 4:21**

<sup>21</sup> So when they had further threatened them, they let them go,

finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all *men* glorified God for that which was done.

Close

Our desire and prayer should be that God be glorified in His church. If we have been with Jesus, if we are not weary in the battle, and are strong in our beliefs, we will be bold in the Spirit as we witness and walk daily in the world.