

DIGGING DEEPER



Don't Stop: Persevering Through Opposition with Boldness

May 3, 2026

This powerful exploration of Acts chapters 3 and 4 takes us beyond the miracle of healing to examine something even more profound: how we respond when obedience to God brings unexpected opposition. We witness Peter and John healing a lame beggar who asked only for money, yet received something infinitely greater—complete restoration. This reminds us that God often answers our prayers in ways that exceed our limited expectations, addressing not just our surface needs but the deeper brokenness we may not even recognize. The truly remarkable part of this story unfolds afterward, when the religious establishment—those who should have celebrated this miracle—instead arrested and threatened the apostles. Here we discover a counter-intuitive truth: facing trouble doesn't mean we're on the wrong path. In fact, when we're genuinely following God's leading, we can almost expect resistance. The disciples' response teaches us everything we need to know about spiritual perseverance. They didn't argue, didn't fight back, didn't quit—they simply kept going. They even prayed for boldness to continue rather than for their persecutors to be removed. This week, whatever challenges we face, we're called to remember that same truth: don't stop, don't give up, God is with us. Our present troubles, as Paul reminds us, are developing our endurance and character, preparing us for an eternal glory that vastly outweighs every difficulty.

1. When have you asked God for help to survive a crisis, only to realize He wanted to heal the deeper issue instead? How did that experience change your perspective on prayer?

2. The religious leaders had undeniable proof of God's miraculous work yet still opposed the disciples. What belief systems or traditions might we be holding onto that prevent us from recognizing God's new work in our lives?

3. Peter and John responded to persecution by saying they could not stop telling about what they had seen and heard. What would it take for you to reach that level of conviction about sharing your faith?

4. How do you distinguish between trouble that comes from doing the right thing versus natural consequences of wrong behavior? What role does self-examination play in facing opposition?

5. The sermon suggests that attacks from those close to us sting more than opposition from strangers. How can we maintain our spiritual focus when persecution comes from within the church community?

6. Paul writes that our present troubles produce glory and develop endurance. Can you identify a past trial that, looking back, strengthened your character or deepened your faith?

7. The disciples prayed for boldness to continue rather than for their enemies to be removed. How might your prayers change if you adopted this approach to opposition?

8. The lame beggar received far more than the money he asked for because God knew his deeper need. What might God want to heal in your life that you have not yet asked for?

9. The sermon emphasizes fixing our gaze on things that cannot be seen rather than present troubles. What spiritual practices help you maintain this eternal perspective during difficult seasons?

10. Jesus kept going all the way to the cross despite knowing what He would face. How does remembering His sacrifice empower you to persevere through your current challenges?

Remember...

"God has a pretty incredible way of digging deeper into our hearts and providing healing instead of helping us find a crutch to just limp through what we're going through."