



Acts

Amplifying Hope | September 3, 2023

Topic: Ask for Boldness; Speak with Boldness

Scripture: Acts 4:1-31

Summary: When Peter, John and the disciples received the Holy Spirit, they also received power (Acts 1:8). Jesus promised that all who received the Holy Spirit would receive power to be his witnesses. What we see in Acts chapter 2 and beyond, is the fulfillment of this promise. All of Jesus' disciples should likewise have the Holy Spirit and the power to be his witnesses speaking with boldness, no matter who they are, where they live, what they do or to whom they speak.

Read Acts 4:1-6

1. Speak with Boldness (Acts 4:7-14)

Power for boldness comes from the Holy Spirit no matter who you are, where you are from or your education.

Boldness comes from being with Jesus.

Acts 4:7-12

[7] And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" [8] Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, [9] if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, [10] let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. [11] This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the

cornerstone. [12] And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Acts 4:13-14

[13] Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. [14] But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition.

2. Speak Threats of Opposition to God's Hand and God's Plan (Acts 4:15-29)

Acts 4:15-29a

[15] But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, [16] saying, "What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. [17] But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." [18] So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. [19] But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, [20] for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." [21] And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. [22] For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

[23] When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. [24] And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God 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. [29] And now, Lord, look upon their threats

3. Pray, Asking for Boldness (Acts 4:29-31)

Acts 4:29-31

[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." [31] And when they had prayed,

4. Speak with Boldness in Your City (Acts 4:31)

Acts 4:31

[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.

Life Application Questions

1. Have you ever spoken with boldness and had a bad experience? Good experience? Describe.
2. Have you ever heard someone testify about Jesus with boldness?
3. What does it mean to speak with boldness? What is required?
4. What are some possible results/outcomes of witnessing boldly about Jesus?
5. Are you willing to speak boldly for Jesus in the city where you live?
6. Some have described a boldness on the mission field in another country or city. Why might this be possible? What truths can be applied in the city where you live or any city in the world?
7. PRAY: Ask the Lord to grant you boldness to be his witness in the city where you live. Ask him to give you confidence and power to speak truth no matter the hearer or setting or outcome.