

Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 2:38-39

“Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

Acts 3:19

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...”

Acts 4:12

“Nor is there salvation in any other,
for there is no other name under
heaven given among men by which
we must be saved”

Acts 4 Outline

- * Vs. 1-22
 - * Apostles Arrested
- * Vs. 23-31
 - * Apostles' Prayer
- * Vs. 32-37
 - * Common Fund

Acts 4

- * Persecution begins
- * The preaching of the gospel brings them into conflict
- * Peter & John demonstrate....
 - * Courage
 - * Boldness
 - * ...and speak in very plain answers
 - * Mt 10:17-20 being fulfilled

By what power or by what name...?

Acts 4:7

- * See Mt 21:23-27
- * In the name of = by the power of
 - * By the authority, will, or might
 - * The power or authority that authorizes or commands an act to be done
 - * Acts 4:12
- * Relate Colossians 3:17

Acts 4:12

- * “Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved”
- * Can good men of every faith be saved? No
- * “You are not very inclusive; you are not very tolerant, Peter!”
- * Exclusive
- * Narrow
- * One Savior. All others are frauds.
- * Romans 1:16 – the gospel is the message that reveals this

The Boldness of Peter & John

- * Uneducated and Untrained
- * Educated & Trained by the Master Teacher and Filled with the Holy Spirit
- * Conviction
- * What about us?
 - * Fill ourselves with the word of God!
 - * Read the word of God and be trained by it!
- * Their courage another testimony to the truth of their message
 - * Why die for a lie?

A Dilemma for the Dishonest

- * Cannot deny the miracle
- * Cannot believe that it is through the resurrected Christ
- * The miracle convincing even to the opponents:
 - * Lame since birth; 40 years old
 - * The man is right there
 - * Cannot claim he has not been healed
 - * All the people know the facts
 - * All the people glorified God for the healing
 - * The rulers could neither disprove nor deny
 - * Done in the presence of enemies

A Dilemma for the Dishonest

- * Verse 17 – Desire to maintain influence over the people
- * If apostles are false, why not answer them?
- * Instead, they silence them
- * Rulers had great power
- * God has verified the apostles' message – Heb 2:3-4

The Principle At Stake

- * Acts 4:19-20 ↔ Acts 5:29
- * Obey civil rulers?
 - * Romans 13:1
 - * 1 Pet 2:13-17
 - * But if their laws contradict God's law then...
 - * We must obey God rather than man
- * Nothing should stop the preaching of the gospel
 - * Apologetic? No
 - * Compromise? No
 - * Tone down? No

Heart Problems

- * Accuse of sin – verse 10
 - * No concern
 - * Concerned with image, power, influence
 - * Stop talking
- * Note: Enemies did not refute the resurrection that was preached
 - * Another evidence for the resurrection

Returned to Their Own

- * Did what was good to do – Prayed
- * Did not
 - * Feel sorry for self
 - * Doubt truth
- * Praised God
- * Expressed faith in God and trust in Him and His power (Rom 8:31)
- * Prayed for boldness
 - * Not for removal of persecution or for vengeance
- * Shall we not pray for the same?
- * Strength in mutual prayer

God's Work

- * Opposed by men, but still prevails
- * Jesus' rejection foreknown
- * Persecution involved
 - * Promised – 2 Tim 3:12
- * Boldness needed
- * Boldness in Acts 2, 3, 4
 - * Boldness not the same as mean, cruel, hateful, proud, self-righteous

Giving for the Needs of the Saints

- * Acts 4:32-36
- * Two realms
 - * Common – under apostolic control
 - * His own – belonged to the individual
 - * Acts 5:4 – before contributed, it was one's own
- * What was done?
 - * Lands and houses sold and proceeds put under apostolic control (“at the feet of” – Acts 22:3)
 - * Common fund
 - * Apostles distributed as anyone had need

Giving for the Needs of the Saints

- * How?
 - * Free-will offering
 - * Not compelled – Acts 5:4
 - * No bake sales, chariot washes, business ventures
- * Who was the object of the charity?
 - * Those who believed – verse 32, 24
 - * Same answer in 2:44-45
 - * I Jn 3:17-18
- * Purpose?
 - * For anyone who had need (v.35) so that no one lacked (v.34)
 - * Goal? Equality in want – nobody lacked – 2 Cor 8:14

Giving for the Needs of the Saints

- * No authority here for what has been contributed to the church to be used for unbelievers
 - * Does not mean individuals are not concerned/devoted to helping others who are in need – Jas 1:27
- * The church never burdened with providing general relief to the world
- * This work never the means of producing Christians
- * This work is a fruit of Christians