



## The Boldness of Spirit-Filled Believers (Acts 4:1-31)

*Questions: Week Nine*

### Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin - [Acts 4:1-22](#)

Topics: [Authority](#), [Believers](#), [Consequences](#), [Good News](#), [Healing](#), [Holy Spirit](#), [Jesus Christ](#), [Judgment](#), [Kindness](#), [Law](#), [Name](#), [People](#), [Persecution](#), [Prophecy](#), [Salvation](#), [Sin](#), [Witnessing](#)

#### Open It

1. How do you tend to respond to criticism?
2. \*When you are misunderstood, what do you usually do to clear things up?
3. If you had to defend yourself in a court of law, how well do you think you would hold up under cross-examination?

#### Explore It

4. Why did the religious officials approach Peter and John? ([4:1-2](#)) When?
5. What did the officials do to the apostles? ([4:3](#))
6. In spite of opposition, how did the early church fare? ([4:4](#))
7. After a night in jail, whom did Peter and John face the next day? ([4:5-7](#))
8. To what event did the Jewish leaders refer when they questioned the apostles? ([4:7](#))
9. What empowered Peter to speak? ([4:8](#))
10. How did Peter answer the council's question? ([4:8-10](#))
11. How did Peter's reference to [Psalm 118:22](#) relate to the resurrected Lord? ([4:11](#))
12. How did Peter's remarks about salvation relate to the healed man, the audience, and the Old Testament passage referring to Christ in [Psalm 118:22](#)? ([4:10-12](#))
13. \*How did the authorities respond to Peter and John? ([4:13-14](#))
14. \*After the Sanhedrin consulted together, what action did they take against the apostles? ([4:15-17](#))
15. \*What was the apostles' reply to the judgment handed down by the council? ([4:18-20](#))

16. Why was the Sanhedrin powerless to take action against Peter and John? ([4:21](#))
17. How old was the man who had been healed? ([4:22](#))
18. What was amazing about the healing that caused this controversy? ([4:22](#))

### **Get It**

19. In our society, when should Christian leaders stand up to political and religious groups?
20. In our society, when should a Christian stand up for his or her faith in Christ?
21. What is the most difficult situation you've faced because of your faith in Christ?
22. \*What are some of the risks in telling others about Christ?
23. \*How can we prepare ourselves for the costs we may have to pay for following Christ?
24. How would you handle being put in jail because you took an unpopular stand for Christ?
25. How do you think you might affect unbelievers around you by your Christian testimony?
26. How many new Christians have joined your church fellowship this past year?
27. How can you be prepared to stand up for Christ when your beliefs are challenged?

### **Apply It**

28. For which public leaders will you pray today that God would call them to repentance and salvation?
29. \*In what way could you strengthen your sense of courage about being a Christian in your place of work, neighborhood, or family?
30. To whom might you be able to tell the Good News this week? How?

## The Believers' Prayer - [Acts 4:23-31](#)

Topics: [Authority](#), [Believers](#), [Bible](#), [Gospel](#), [Holy Spirit](#), [Jesus Christ](#), [Leadership](#), [Ministry](#), [Miracles](#), [Persecution](#), [Perseverance](#), [Power](#), [Prayer](#)

### Open It

1. \*After going through a stressful experience, what do you do to unwind?
2. When have you felt most supported and encouraged by your church family?
3. When you pray, what are some favorite expressions that you like to use?

### Explore It

4. \*Where did Peter and John go after they were released by the Sanhedrin? ([4:23](#))
5. \*How did the believers respond to the apostles' report? ([4:24](#))
6. In the prayer, how did the believers express their view of the persecution they faced? ([4:24-26](#))
7. How did the believers use the Psalms in their prayer? ([4:25-26](#))
8. How was God's hand in all that was plotted and done against Jesus? ([4:27-28](#))
9. How would God orchestrate the destruction and defeat of Jesus' enemies? ([4:28-30](#))
10. \*What did the Christians ask God to do? ([4:29-30](#))
11. How would the believers be enabled to carry out God's work? ([4:30](#))
12. What was the effect of the believers' prayer? ([4:31](#))
13. What did the Christians experience and do after they finished praying? ([4:31](#))

## **Get It**

14. \*Where do you go for help in times of trouble?
15. How could your church benefit from handling crises the way the early church did?
16. When we pray, why is it helpful to recall the way God has acted in the past?
17. How does it build our faith to quote Scripture in our prayers?
18. How does it build our faith to remember past works of God on behalf of His people?
19. When was the last time you were amazed by the power of prayer?
20. \*How can your faith in God be expressed through the prayers you pray?
21. If your church were more sensitive to the Holy Spirit, what changes might take place?

## **Apply It**

22. \*What changes can you make in your personal prayer life today?
23. When can you pray for the leaders and ministries of your church?
24. How might you participate in times of prayer with other Christians over the next month?