



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

Study Notes Handout: Week Nine

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled and ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. (Acts 4:13)

Without Holy Spirit boldness, the world will remain unevangelized... there can never be a substitute for the power of the Spirit working through willing men and women... George Verwer

Introduction:

Most of us do not evidence holy boldness very often, but in this Scripture of the early Church we see what we can do to become bolder in our witness for Jesus Christ.

1. Seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit (4:8, 29 - 31)
2. Believe in the resurrection through Jesus (4:1 - 2)
3. Be convinced of the exclusivity of the Gospel (4:12)
4. Spend time with Jesus (4:13)
5. Listen to God more than to other voices (4:18 - 20)
6. Build your world-view on the Sovereignty of God (4:23 - 31)
7. Pray often with other believers in unity (4:24; cf. 1:14; 2:46; 5:12)

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- i. Put yourself in the sandals of Peter and John. What would you have said to the Sanhedrin if they had warned you not to speak about Jesus anymore? Do you envision a time coming when our faith will call us to exercise civil disobedience in Canada? Explain.
- ii. Martyn Lloyd-Jones said, *The ultimate test of our profession of faith is our prayer life*. How do we pass the test personally and collectively as a body of believers?
- iii. Philipps Brooks said, *Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for power equal to your tasks*. How does the early Church teach us to pray differently in this Scripture?
- iv. What are you facing that requires boldness? How can we pray for each other in specific ways?



Personal Study Notes

²⁹ *Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.*

³⁰ *Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."*

³¹ *After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*
Acts 4:29-31

Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin (4:1-21)

Arrested and Interrogated (4:1-12)

Warned and Released (4:13-22)

The Prayer of the Community (4:23-31)

Their Prayer for Boldness (4:24-30)

The Power From the Holy Spirit (4:31)

Personal Prayer Points from this Passage:

Questions or Insights for Discussion:

1)

2)