

Today's Focus:
(Holy) Spirit-Empowered Boldness

In our last lesson, Peter addresses the crowd that had gathered around Solomon's Colonnade following the healing of the lame man at the beautiful gate. While they were speaking to the people, they were approached by the priests, the captain of the temple guards, and the Sadducees. Let's pick up the reading from verse 1 of Acts 4.

Acts 4:1-22

Learning from Peter & John's Persecution & Opposition:

1. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you tend to want a **GODLY LIFE** rather than a **GOOD LIFE**.

A good life for most people is life without persecution or opposition. If good life means no persecution or opposition, then our life won't always be good. A godly life is a life that is content with what you have and see persecution or opposition as part of your life which will ultimately bring glory to God.

2. Your **FAITH** will be **TESTED**.
3. Your **OBEDIENCE** brings **PERSECUTION** or **OPPOSITION** sometimes.
4. **PERSECUTION** or **OPPOSITION** is never a **CURSE**, but our **REWARD**.

Next Steps:

- ☐ Did you pray and give your life to Jesus for the first time today? Email us at pastorneil@covenantfamilychapel.org
- ☐ Help Covenant Family Chapel reach more people by sending this message and the notes to someone.
- ☐ Visit <https://www.covenantfamilychapel.org> to listen to another message or listen on WFMD 930AM Radio station in Frederick on Sundays Mornings at 9:30 am and WWNL 1080AM & 103.9FM on Fridays at 3 pm in Pittsburg (PA, OHIO, MD, and WEST VIRGINIA). Thank You

Growth Group Study Questions

For the week of May 7, 2023

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

MY EXPERIENCES

What pressure do you feel to conform to ungodly ways of thinking and behaving in your family, work, and community?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Not many weeks before, Jesus was on trial before this same group at Caiaphas' house. At that time, Peter was filled with fear as he watched from the courtyard (Matthew 26:69–75). Now that Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter is different? What changes do you observe in Peter's confidence according to Acts 4:8–12?

2. What judgments did Peter pass on these "judges"? From whom did Peter draw his authority? Why not take a moment to memorize Acts 4:12?

3. This weekend, Pastor Neil reminded us that as followers of Jesus, not everything we experience in this world is going to go well. In fact, as Christians, we're going to face persecution and opposition in many forms. However, everything we do, everything we are, everything we experience can be to the glory of God. How do the following passages encourage you and give you hope in your trials?

Matthew 5:10-12; Mark 13:13; Luke 6:22-23; Luke 21:12-19; John 16:33; James 1:2-4

4. How can you continue to glorify God when things don't go the way you think they should?

5. Job is the story of a guy who had everything and then pretty much lost it - family, friends, money, health, success, position in life. For several chapters leading up to Chapter 38, Job has been questioning God on why He would allow these things to

happen. Job thought that God had turned His back on him, which is often our temptation during extended times of suffering. Read Job 38 and answer the following questions:

- a. How does Job 38 help you to resist the temptation to think God has turned His back on you?
- b. How can you continue to trust the Word of God and still be a light despite all circumstances?

HOMEWORK

Looking back at this week's teaching and study, what is most important for you to remember and why?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- _____
- _____
- _____

SERVICE PROJECTS

Please continue to discuss and work on your service projects. Pray about it as you discuss and let the Holy Spirit lead you.