

5-Day Devotional Guide: Bold Faith in the Name of Jesus (Acts 4:1–13)

Day 1: When Obedience Creates Opposition

Scripture Focus: Acts 4:1–4

Devotional Thought

Peter and John step into this moment right after a powerful miracle—the healing of a man who had been unable to walk. You’d think that kind of moment would be universally celebrated. Instead, it sparks resistance.

Why? Because the message attached to the miracle mattered more than the miracle itself.

They weren’t just helping someone—they were pointing people to Jesus as the risen Savior. And that disrupted the religious system, challenged authority, and exposed hearts.

Here’s the reality:

Light doesn’t just illuminate—it also exposes. And not everyone is comfortable with that.

Sometimes we assume that if we’re truly following God, things should go smoothly. But this passage flips that idea. Obedience often puts you in direct conflict with comfort, culture, and even other people’s expectations.

But notice something crucial:

Even though Peter and John were arrested, the gospel wasn’t restricted. It multiplied.

God’s work is not dependent on your circumstances—it moves through them.

So when you face resistance—whether it’s subtle (awkward conversations, being overlooked) or direct (criticism, rejection)—it doesn’t mean you’re off track. It might mean you’re exactly where God wants you.

Reflection Questions

- Where have you seen obedience to God create tension in your life?

- Do you tend to avoid discomfort, even if it means shrinking back spiritually?
 - How does knowing God still works through opposition change your perspective?
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Day 2: Standing Firm Under Pressure

Scripture Focus: Acts 4:5–7

Devotional Thought

This is a high-stakes moment. Peter and John are brought before the Sanhedrin—the most powerful religious court in their world. These are influential, educated, respected leaders... and also the same group that played a role in Jesus' crucifixion.

This isn't just intimidating—it's dangerous.

Imagine the internal dialogue they could've had:

"Maybe we should tone it down."

"Let's not make this worse."

"Say just enough to get out of this."

But pressure has a way of revealing what's really inside of us.

And that's the key:

You don't rise to the occasion—you fall to your foundation.

Peter wasn't scrambling to figure out what he believed in that moment. His confidence came from what had already been formed in him through time with Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit.

We often think boldness shows up in the moment—but it's actually built long before the moment.

The quiet times.

The daily obedience.

The unseen faithfulness.

Those are what prepare you for public pressure.

Reflection Questions

- What situations make you feel spiritually intimidated?
- Are you building a foundation now that will hold under pressure later?

- Where might God be calling you to speak up instead of stay silent?
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Day 3: The Power of the Name of Jesus

Scripture Focus: Acts 4:8–12

Devotional Thought

Peter’s response is bold, direct, and completely centered on Jesus.

He doesn’t take credit for the miracle.

He doesn’t try to impress the leaders.

He doesn’t soften the message to make it more acceptable.

Instead, he makes it unmistakably clear:

Everything comes back to Jesus.

And then he says something that still challenges people today:

“Salvation is found in no one else...”

That statement draws a line. It forces a decision.

In a culture that values flexibility, personalization, and “finding your own truth,” this can feel uncomfortable. But Peter isn’t trying to win approval—he’s proclaiming truth.

And here’s why it matters so much:

If Jesus is just one option among many, then He’s not truly Savior—He’s just a suggestion.

But if He is *the* Savior, then everything changes.

That means:

- Your past can actually be forgiven
- Your identity can actually be secure
- Your future can actually be anchored

The power isn’t in our effort—it’s in His name.

Reflection Questions

- Do you live like Jesus is *the* answer, or just *an* answer?
 - Where are you tempted to place your hope outside of Him?
 - How can you more intentionally point people to Jesus in your daily life?
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Day 4: The Cornerstone We Can't Ignore

Scripture Focus: Acts 4:11

Devotional Thought

Peter uses a powerful image here—one that the religious leaders would've immediately understood.

A cornerstone isn't decorative. It's essential.

It sets the alignment for the entire structure. Every wall, every angle, every measurement depends on it. If the cornerstone is off, everything built on it will eventually fail.

And Peter says:

The very stone you rejected... is the one everything depends on.

That had to hit hard.

Because rejection doesn't change reality.

You can ignore the cornerstone.

You can dismiss it.

You can even build without it for a while...

But eventually, the cracks show.

We do this in subtle ways all the time:

- Building our lives on success or achievement
- Looking for identity in relationships or approval
- Chasing comfort, control, or security

None of those things can hold the weight of your life.

Only Jesus can.

And the invitation here isn't just to believe in Him—it's to **build everything around Him.**

Reflection Questions

- What are you currently relying on most for stability?
 - Where might your “foundation” be shaky right now?
 - What would it practically look like to center your life on Jesus?
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Day 5: A Life That Points Back to Jesus

Scripture Focus: Acts 4:13

Devotional Thought

This verse is both simple and incredibly profound.

The leaders notice two things:

1. Peter and John are ordinary
2. Peter and John are bold

And the only explanation they can come up with is this:

They had been with Jesus.

That’s it.

Not education.

Not status.

Not natural ability.

Proximity to Jesus changed them.

And here’s what’s fascinating—these same disciples were once fearful, uncertain, and inconsistent. Peter, especially, had denied Jesus just weeks earlier.

But now? He’s standing boldly in front of the very people he once feared.

What changed?

Time with Jesus + the power of the Holy Spirit.

That’s still the formula today.

We often overcomplicate spiritual growth. We think we need more knowledge, better discipline, or stronger willpower.

But at the core of it all is this:

Are you spending real, consistent time with Jesus?

Because you become like what you're around.

If you're constantly surrounded by noise, stress, comparison, and distraction—that will shape you.

But if you consistently sit with Jesus, listen to Him, talk with Him, and walk with Him—it will show.

Not perfectly. But noticeably.

Reflection Questions

- What does your current time with Jesus actually look like?
- What's competing for your attention and intimacy with Him?
- If someone observed your life, would they see evidence that you've been with Jesus?

Final Thought

This passage isn't just a story—it's an invitation.

To live boldly.

To stand firm.

To center everything on Jesus.

And to stay close enough to Him that it changes you from the inside out.

Because when that happens, people may not be able to explain you...

...but they won't be able to ignore that something is different.