

## When Boldness meets Resistance

Acts 4:1-22

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### INTRODUCTION

There are moments in our journey with God when the excitement of the Upper Room – the Pentecostal experience – meets the chilly reality of earthly resistance ... After the sound and the fire falls ... After the healing power flows ... After the Name of Jesus is boldly proclaimed – there will always be a confrontation ... Not with flesh and blood – but with the spiritual structures and religious powers that feel threatened when the power of the Kingdom is manifested upon the earth.

Remember – Acts 4 is not just a historical account of a past event ... It is a dynamic, prophetic act – a living demonstration of the Pentecostal experience for today ... This is what happens when a Spirit-filled people – transformed by the I AM – walking in the power of “They” ... In obedience to that still inner voice ... Looking through the eyes of the Spirit ... Manifest the power of God – for the benefit of another ... When confronted for such a manifestation and miraculous event – refuse to cower to any form of intimidation – that came their way.

It is the Spirit in action – moving through vessels who have yielded to divine conformity ... been transformed by the Eternal ... and come to the full realization that they will no longer bow to the temporal ... In this sacred space of Scripture – we find ourselves standing beside Peter and John – not merely as observers – but as participants in the same divine drama ... For this same Pentecostal experience – burns within our hearts – today ... And compels us to demonstrate – to this temporal world – the unshakable – unyielding – Kingdom of the Living God.

### TRANSITION

So – let us examine this divine confrontation – for the express purpose of discovering what happens – when Spirit-empowered boldness meets earthly resistance ... And let us look deeper into how these two men of God handled their encounter with the authorities – when told they were no longer permitted to publicly demonstrate or declare their faith.

## Overall Concept

A person – who has had a genuine Pentecostal experience – will never retreat or back down in the face of opposition ... For in the Kingdom – opposition is not an obstacle – it is a divine opportunity ... Designed to increase your boldness – strengthen your faith – and solidify your resolve – that you are to obey God rather than man – as HE, and HE alone, is your ultimate authority.

## The Spirit Ignites Boldness in the Face of Threats

### Acts 4:8-13 New Century Version

Then Peter, - filled with the Holy Spirit, - **said to them,** - - “Rulers of the people and you elders, ... 9 are you questioning us about a good thing that was done to a crippled man? ... Are you asking us who made him well? ... 10 We want all of you and all the people to know that this man was made well by the power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth. ... You crucified him, but God raised him from the dead. ... This man was crippled, but he is now well and able to stand here before you because of the power of Jesus. ... 11 Jesus is ‘the stone that you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’ (Psalm 118:22) ... 12 Jesus is the only One who can save people. ... No one else in the world is able to save us.” ... *(There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.)* ... 13 The leaders saw that Peter and John were not afraid to speak, - and they understood that these men had no special training or education. ... So, they were amazed. ... Then they realized that Peter and John had been with Jesus.

## Boldness is the Natural Overflow of a True Pentecostal Experience

Peter’s transformation is both spiritual and mystical – and utterly unmistakable ... This same

man who once denied Jesus – under the pressure of being exposed as one of His disciples ... Peter may have been a big mouth – but when the finger of accusation was pointed at him – he lied, cursed, and collapsed in fear ... So – don't misunderstand the type of man we're talking about – and what he was like before he encountered the fire of Pentecost ... But now – Peter is ablaze with divine boldness ... Again – this is not his personality – this is Spirit-born Presence ... It is not bravado – it is a divine baptism – manifesting through his speech.

### **Spiritual Nugget**

Pentecostal boldness flows from your spirit – through your alignment with the Spirit ... Not through a soulish adrenaline rush – spurred by frustration or anger ... Boldness comes through the soul's expansion – of the divine knowing – that you are one with the I AM ... It is the voice of union – speaking with the authority of the Eternal One – which transcends every earthly fear.

### **Boldness Reveals the Unmistakable Signature of Jesus upon your Life**

**Verse 13** - - - The leaders saw that Peter and John were not afraid to speak, - and they understood that these men had no special training or education. ... So, they were amazed. ... Then they realized that Peter and John had been with Jesus.

### **“They Were Not Afraid to Speak”**

The first thing that astonished the religious authorities was the courage of Peter and John ... Their words were not tentative or restrained – as they spoke as someone who had been touched eternally ... Any fear they may have been carrying – was completely consumed by holy fire ... The mystical union they shared with Christ produced a boldness that made them unshakable – even under threat ... When the Spirit fills a person – silence is no longer an option – truth becomes a divine compulsion – which must find a voice.

### **“They Had No Special Training or Education”**

They did not speak as scribes or scholars ... They hadn't been molded by rabbinical schools or polished by institutional systems ... Yet their words cut with spiritual authority – why? ... Because the Kingdom of God does not require worldly credentials – it requires spiritual

alignment and oneness ... The wisdom flowing from Peter and John didn't come from books – it came from the Breath of God ... This is the mystery of the Spirit: it bypasses the intellect and releases divine utterance through a consecrated vessel – one who lives in communion with the Eternal.

### **“They Had Been with Jesus”**

This was the phrase that explains everything ... “They had been with Jesus.” ... Not in theory – but in actual, living proximity to His Presence ... His Presence had shaped their entire being ... They had walked with Him – learned His rhythm – and now carry His resonance ... Even after His ascension – the imprint of Christ remained upon them ... And that's the secret of true ministry – it is not how much you know – but how deeply you abide in oneness ... The world recognizes that kind of harmony and resonance ... It's unmistakable.

### **Spiritual Nugget**

When you are enfolded in oneness – vibrating with the frequency of the Spirit – your words will carry the weight of eternity ... Even if your words are unwelcomed – those who hear them cannot deny the spirit and power they carry ... They are a mystical resonance – that even your adversaries cannot ignore.

### **The Spirit Empowers Holy Defiance**

#### **Acts 4:18-22 Easy English Bible**

Then the Jewish leaders told Peter and John to come back into the room ... They said to them, ‘You must not use the authority of Jesus to teach people any more ... You must not speak about HIM’ ... 19 Then Peter and John replied to the leaders, ‘What do you think God wants us to do? ... Should we obey you? ... Or should we obey God? ... You decide! ... 20 We know what is right ... We must continue to speak about these things ... We must tell people about the things that we have seen and heard’ ... 21 The Jewish leaders were angry ... They told Peter and John that they must obey them ... Then they let Peter and John go free ... All the people there were

praising God because of the miracle ... So, the leaders could not decide how to punish Peter and John ... 22 The man who became well because of this miracle was more than 40 years old.

### **Civil Disobedience can often be Necessary in order to Remain Spiritually Obedient**

**Verse 19-20** - - - Then Peter and John replied to the leaders, ‘What do you think God wants us to do? ... Should we obey you? ... Or should we obey God? ... You decide! ... 20 We know what is right ... We must continue to speak about these things ... We must tell people about the things that we have seen and heard’

When governing authorities seek to trespass – and impose their will upon the sanctuary of God and person – to comply becomes compromise, - and silence becomes sin ... Notice - - Peter and John didn’t rally the troops – gather their picket signs – and hold a press conference airing their grievances before the community ... They simply stood firm in spiritual alignment – anchored in divine authority – with the King of kings and Lord of lords ... It was clear in their hearts who they were called to obey – and they were bold enough to express their decision with unwavering conviction.

### **Spiritual Nugget**

There comes a time – when the voice of Caesar – must be told it carries no weight – when compared to the voice of the I AM ... When Spirit-filled believers stand in sacred defiance – and declare righteousness in the face of unrighteousness ... For in such moments, civil disobedience becomes holy obedience ... Peter and John replied, “Should we obey you? ... Or should we obey God? ... You decide ... We know what is right...”

### **The Miraculous Validated the Message**

**Verses 21-22** - - - The Jewish leaders were angry ... They told Peter and John that they must obey them ... Then they let Peter and John go free ... All the people there were praising God because of the miracle ... So, the leaders could not decide how to punish Peter and John ... 22 The man who became well because of this miracle was more than 40 years old.

Now catch this – all the people were glorifying God because of the miracle ... The man who had been healed stood there with Peter and John – as living proof ... A walking testimony – to the Name and power of Jesus ... The move of God that this community was experiencing – was sparked by two believers simply going about their day – being spiritually sensitive to a moment that presented itself – and ministering into that moment with the Name and power of the Spirit.

### **Spiritual Nugget**

The world may reject what you say – but it cannot refute the weight and power of the manifestation behind your words ... In this moment, we see instant results – and yes, I believe this must increasingly become the norm ... But even when there is no visible change in the moment – that is OK ... You must still know that your words carry the Name and power of Jesus – and they always release impact in the unseen realm.

### **Isaiah 55:11 The Voice**

So, it is when I declare something ... My word will go out and not return to Me empty ... But it will do what I wanted ... It will accomplish what I determined.

### **Conclusion / Takeaway**

This historical event is more than a record of early church resistance – it is a prophetic mirror held up to our lives today ... We are living in a time when boldness must no longer be optional – it must be essential ... The world is not merely in need of better arguments – it is starving for authentic witnesses ... Those who have been with Jesus – those who walk in union with the Spirit – those who refuse to be silenced when Caesar demands obedience to unrighteousness and lawlessness.

Peter and John didn't fight with the weapons of the world – they didn't panic, protest, or perform ... They simply stood – rooted in their awareness of oneness – clothed in boldness – and carried by the breath of God ... **And here's the takeaway:**

**A genuine Pentecostal life will always speak – especially when the world demands silence ... It**

will stand – when the systems say – sit down ... And it will shine and resonant with the authority of the I AM – even when the world tries to vanquish the light and silence the sound.

So, the question now becomes ... Will you cower to pressures exerted by the so-called authorities - - or will you burn brightly with His Presence and release His Sound? ... Will you conform to the demands of mankind - - or will you echo the eternal cry: “I must obey God rather than man.”

Remember - - You don't need a platform – you need His Presence ... You don't need credentials – you need consecration ... You don't need a crowd – you need courage ... Be bold ... Be unmoved ... Be one – with the One – Who has enfolded His Spirit with yours.

### Closing Prayer

Father - - We come before You today – awakened – convicted – and drawn deeper into the mystery of Your Presence ... Thank You for the sound and fire that arrived in the Upper Room, and for the boldness it still ignites in consecrated hearts ... We confess that too often, we have shrunk back when You've called us to stand ... We have been silent when You prompted us to speak ... But today – You have stirred and challenged our hearts ... We respond by faith to this challenge ... We say yes to the boldness – that indwells us by Your Spirit ... We say yes to the authority of Your Name ... We say yes to the sacred defiance that refuses to bow to any system – that try to intimidate us.

Lord, we know the same Spirit that filled Peter and John fill us now ... Help us to manifest that Spirit as they did ... Let us walk in such deep union with You, that even our silence carries the weight of glory ... May we be known – not by status, skill, or education – but by this one thing: **That we have been with Jesus.** ... Empower us to obey You over man ... To speak truth in love ... To release miracles in ordinary places ... And to carry the sound of heaven into the noise of this world ... We are Yours, Lord ... Set us ablaze again ... And let our lives be living

proof – that the Kingdom has come ... In the Name – that is above every Name – Jesus – I pray  
- - Amen.