THE BOOK OF ACTS

"To Do and To Teach"

<u>Teaching 10: Chapter 4, PT. 3 – Sharing Among Believers</u>

Introduction: We focus on Peter and John after they were released from interrogation by the Sanhedrin. We see two men who refuse to compromise despite the threats against them.

<u>Acts 4:23-37</u>

The Apostles Seek Courage From G-d in Prayer

<u>Verses 23-24</u>

Acts 4:23-24 (AMP) - [23]After Peter and John were released, they returned to their own [people] and reported everything that the chief priests and elders had said to them. [24] And when they heard it, they raised their voices together to God and said, "O Sovereign Lord [having complete power and authority], it is You who MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND EVERYTHING THAT IS IN THEM,

KEY: "O Sovereign Lord"! Worship is the beginning of this prayer!

Sovereign-(Hebrew)-*melek*-denotes a royal reign, dominion, such as G-d's reign over the universe.

Sovereign-(Greek)-(*despótis*)-Biblical Greek term for an absolute master or sovereign lord (such as ***Despota*** used for G-d in the New Testament).

Understanding: They simply followed the Blueprint that has been taught to them in the Tanakh (OT Scripture) as well as Jesus' own instructions for Prayer.

All Men Exhorted To Praise G-d

A Psalm of Thanksgiving

Psalm 100:4-5 (KJV) – [4] Enter his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name. [5] For the LORD *is* good; his mercy *is* everlasting; and his truth *endureth* to all generations.

The Lord's Prayer: Matthew 6:5-13

Matthew 6:9-10 (KJV) - [9]After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. [10] Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven.

Note: Make a conscious effort that before you make your request known to G-d, you **PRAISE HIM FIRST**!

<u>Verses 25-26</u>

Acts 4:25-26 (AMP) – [25] who by the Holy Spirit, *through* the mouth of our father David, Your servant, said,

'WHY DID THE NATIONS (Gentiles) BECOME ARROGANT *and* RAGE,
AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS [against the Lord]?

[26] 'THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND [to attack],
AND THE RULERS WERE ASSEMBLED TOGETHER
AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS ANOINTED (the Christ, the Messiah).'

Understanding: Now they give honor to their forefather King David, a "man after G-d's own heart" **(Acts 13:22)**, **as they quote Psalm 2:1-2**.



- Peter and John reach back to the **OT Scriptures** to highlight this Psalm of human arrogance.
- They highlight it to express their amazement over the arrogance of these religious leaders.
- This psalm highlights the audacity of any human, world system, culture, or group that thinks they can so easily cast-off G-d's moral authority or outsmart His will.

<u>Verses 27-28</u>

Acts 4:27-28 (AMP) – [27] For in this city there were gathered together against **Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed**, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, [28] to do whatever **Your hand and Your purpose predestined [before the creation of the world]** to occur [and **so without knowing it, they served Your own purpose].**

Key: These men know who they serve and they have a revelation of the Sovereignty of Father!

Observe How They Pray

<u>Verses 29-30</u>

Acts 4:29-30 (AMP) – [29] And now, Lord, observe their threats [take them into account] and **grant that Your bond-servants may declare Your message [of salvation] with great confidence**, [30] while You **extend Your hand to heal,** and **signs and wonders (attesting miracles) take place through the name** [and the **authority and power] of Your holy Servant *and* Son Jesus.**

No Imprecatory Prayers; Just Demonstration and Power



Imprecatory Prayers - A prayer that invokes a curse, judgement, or divine disaster upon your enemies or agents of injustice.

Imprecatory Psalms: Psalms 5, 10, 17, 35, 58, 59, 69, 70, 79, 83, 109, 129, 137, and 140. **This was allowed in the OT Scriptures.**

Jesus Teaches Love Your Enemies: (Matthew 5:38-48)

- They did not ask G-d to kill their enemies.
- They are not offended and they are not out for revenge.
- Their vindication is in granting them confidence to finish the assignment.
- Their vindication, so to speak, is miracles, signs and wonders and the power of G-d on display.

Verse 31

Acts 4:31 (AMP) – [31] And when they had prayed, the place where they were meeting together was shaken [a sign of God's presence]; and they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit and *began* to speak the word of God with boldness *and* courage**.



Understanding: These people are already saved! There are **TWO** fillings of **Holy Spirit.** One to seal you until the day of redemption **(Ephesians 1:13-14)** and another to make you effective **(Acts 1:8)**.

REGENERATION OR INDWELLING OF HOLY SPIRIT

The moment a person believes in Jesus Christ and is "born again", the Holy Spirit comes to live inside them. This happens at the exact moment of salvation/conversion.

Genesis 15:6 (NIV) – [6] "Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness."

KEY: Old Testament believers were saved by **grace through faith** in G-d's promises

BAPTISM IS TO MAKE YOU EFFECTIVE BY HOLY SPIRIT

The baptism of Holy Spirit is a **distinct, second experience** that happens *after* a person is **already saved or "receives" the Spirit**. It is an **endowment** of supernatural power, boldness, and spiritual gifts specifically to witness and serve effectively.

Acts 1:8 (AMP) – [8] *"But you will receive power and ability when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be **My witnesses** [to tell people about Me] both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth."*

A Word To Believers: If you feel ineffective, ask for another endowment of His Spirit! He is NO Respecter of Persons (Acts 10:34).

Sharing Among Believers

Verses 32-35

Acts 4:32-35 (AMP) – [32] Now the company of believers was of **one heart and soul, and not one [of them] claimed that anything belonging to him** was **[exclusively]** his own, but **everything was common property** *and* **for the use of all.** [33] And with **great ability *and* power the apostles were *continuously* testifying to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace [God's remarkable lovingkindness and favor and goodwill] rested richly upon them all.** [34] There was not a needy person among them, because those who were owners of land or houses were selling them, and bringing the proceeds of the sales [35] and placing *the money* down at the apostles' feet. Then **it was distributed to each as anyone had need.**

Need-(Greek)-*chreia*-necessity. Something that is necessary: A **requirement** *(e.g.,* food, clothes, shelter, and other necessities*)* for the sustainment of life!



Understanding: They did not just give tithes and offerings; they gave EVERYTHING!

<u>Verses 36-37</u>

Acts 4:36-37 (AMP) – [36] Now Joseph, a Levite and native of Cyprus, who was surnamed Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement), [37] **sold a field** belonging to him and brought the money and set it at the apostles' feet.

Understanding: <u>ONLY</u> the power of Holy Spirit can cause a person to give up all they have to make sure the needs of all are met! This is the Love of Christ on display. **WHO'S NEXT? Selah…**

The End