

Devoted and Unshaken: The Book of Acts  
"Bold Faith" #5  
Cornerstone Church of Poway  
Pastor Ed Turley  
May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Sermon Teaching

**Big Idea:** God gives boldness to those who stay close to Jesus, speak up for truth, and seek Him in prayer.

## How to have Bold Faith

### 1. Stand Firm When Your Faith Is Tested

<sup>1</sup> While **Peter and John** were speaking to the people, they were **confronted** by the **priests**, the captain of the **Temple guard**, and some of the **Sadducees**. <sup>2</sup> These leaders were very disturbed that Peter and John were teaching the people that **through Jesus there is a resurrection of the dead**. <sup>3</sup> They **arrested** them and, since it was already evening, **put them in jail** until morning. <sup>4</sup> **But many of the people who heard their message believed it**, so the number of believers now totaled about **5,000 men**, not counting women and children. **Acts 4:1-4 (NLT2)**

Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

**John 15:20 (NIV)**

<sup>5</sup> The next day the council of all the rulers and elders and teachers of religious law met in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> Annas the high priest was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and other relatives of the high priest. <sup>7</sup> They brought in the two disciples and demanded, "By **what power**, or in **whose name**, have you done this?" <sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of our people, <sup>9</sup> are we being questioned today because we've done **a good deed for a crippled man**? Do you want to know how he was healed? <sup>10</sup> Let me **clearly state** to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the **powerful name of Jesus Christ** the Nazarene, **the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead**. <sup>11</sup> For Jesus is the **one referred to in the Scriptures**, where it says, 'The stone that you builders **rejected** has now become the **cornerstone**.' <sup>12</sup> **There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.**" **Acts 4:5-12 (NLT2)**

Jesus to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." <sup>45</sup> Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and **repentance and forgiveness** of sins will be preached in **his name to all nations**, beginning at Jerusalem. **Luke 24:44-47 (NIV)**

### 2. Stay Close to Jesus So You Can Speak with Courage

<sup>13</sup> The members of the council were amazed when they saw the **boldness** of Peter and John, for they could see that **they were ordinary men with no special training** in the Scriptures. They also **recognized them as men who had been with Jesus**. <sup>14</sup> But since they could see **the man** who had been healed **standing right there among them**, there was nothing the council could

say. <sup>15</sup> So they ordered Peter and John out of the council chamber and conferred among themselves. <sup>16</sup> “What should we do with these men?” they asked each other. **“We can’t deny** that they have performed a miraculous sign, and **everybody in Jerusalem knows about it.** <sup>17</sup> But to keep them from spreading their propaganda any further, we must **warn them** not to speak to anyone in Jesus’ name again.” <sup>18</sup> So they called the apostles back in and **commanded them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus.** <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him? <sup>20</sup> We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.” <sup>21</sup> The council then threatened them further, but they finally let them go because they didn’t know how to punish them without starting a riot. For everyone was praising God <sup>22</sup> for this miraculous sign—the healing of a man who had been lame for more than forty years. **Acts 4:13-22 (NLT2)**

But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, <sup>20</sup> for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. **Matthew 10:19-20 (NIV)**

### **3. Seek Boldness Through Prayer**

<sup>23</sup> As soon as they were freed, Peter and John returned to the other believers and told them what the leading priests and elders had said. <sup>24</sup> When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God: **“O Sovereign Lord,** Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them— <sup>25</sup> you spoke long ago by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant, saying, ‘Why were the nations so angry? Why did they waste their time with futile plans? <sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth prepared for battle; the rulers gathered together against the LORD and against his Messiah.’ <sup>27</sup> “In fact, this has happened here in this very city! For Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, your holy servant, whom you anointed. <sup>28</sup> But everything they did was determined beforehand according to your will. <sup>29</sup> **And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word.** <sup>30</sup> Stretch out your hand with **healing power**; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant **Jesus.**” <sup>31</sup> After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.** **Acts 4:23-31 (NLT2)**

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- <sup>2</sup> for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. <sup>3</sup> This is good, and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who wants all men to be **saved** and to **come to a knowledge of the truth.** <sup>5</sup> For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave himself as a **ransom** for all men--the testimony given in its proper time. **1 Timothy 2:1-6 (NIV)**

➤ **Where do you need to stand firm in your faith this week?**

#### **My Next Right Step, I will:**

- ☐ Stand firm in my faith
- ☐ Stay close to Jesus
- ☐ Seek boldness through prayer

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**Talk It Over**

**Big Idea:** God gives boldness to those who stay close to Jesus, speak up for truth, and seek Him in prayer.

**Icebreaker:**

Have you ever stood up for something you believed in, even when it was unpopular? What happened—and how did it feel?

**1. Stand Firm When Your Faith Is Tested**

**Read Acts 4:1–12**

Why were the religious leaders so disturbed by Peter and John’s message?

How do you typically respond when your faith is challenged—silence, defense, or confidence?

What does Peter’s boldness teach us about how we should speak about Jesus today?

**Read Luke 24:44-47**

Who did Jesus say the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms were about?

**Read 2 Timothy 1:7**

What does it mean to have a spirit of power and not fear?

Where is God calling you to stand firm in your faith this week?

## **2. Stay Close to Jesus So You Can Speak with Courage**

### **Read Acts 4:13–22**

Why do you think being with Jesus made such a noticeable difference in Peter and John?

What does it mean for people to “take note” that you’ve been with Jesus?

In what ways do we disqualify ourselves from boldness, and how does this passage correct that?

### **Read Matthew 10:19-20**

What encouragement does Jesus give to overcome fear during persecution?

What habits can help you grow closer to Jesus so your courage flows from your relationship with Him?

## **3. Seek Boldness Through Prayer, Not Comfort**

### **Read Acts 4:23–31**

How did the early church respond to pressure? What stands out about their prayer?

Why is it significant that they didn’t ask God to remove the threat but to increase their boldness?

How can prayer reshape the way we face challenges?

### **Read 1 Timothy 2:1-6**

Is there someone in your life who needs to hear the name of Jesus through your courage?

Which of these three action steps—standing firm, staying close, or seeking boldness—do you most need to take this week?