

Our theme at Believers Church this year has been “Enabled Boldness”. I realize that we have added 28 new families in membership this year and have many more new attendees that have found a home here at believers after we began with “Enabled Boldness”. Therefore, today I want to make sure we are all on the same page. Maybe cast the vision for Enabled Boldness to some for the first time and review it for others. Enabled Boldness was inspired by a story in Acts chapter 3 and 4.

- In the process of going to pray, the Lord healed a crippled man through Peter and John.
- Peter then preached a powerful sermon proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus, the savior, to the astonished group of people, but offended the religious leaders in the process.

Acts 4:1 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. 2 They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.

Two Results of Boldly Declaring Jesus

1) Boldly declaring Jesus earned Peter and John a trip to jail.

Acts 4:3 They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day.

2) Boldly declaring Jesus resulted in salvations!

Acts 4:4 But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

Thankful That Salvation is Found in Jesus

Acts 4:5 The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem.

Acts 4:7 They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: “By what power or what name did you do this?”

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people!

9 If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed,

10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11 Jesus is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’ And here is the forever enduring truth...

12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

BOLD NEXT STEP I will memorize Acts 4:12 “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Ordinary People of Courage

Acts 4:13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. The only conclusion they could make was that these men had been with Jesus.

Will the people we encounter everyday know we have been with Jesus by our courage?

Acts 4:14 But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. So, what are they going to do?

15 So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together.

16 “What are we going to do with these men?” they asked. “Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it.

How To Stop the Spreading the Good News of Jesus

Acts 4:17-18 But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.” (*They Got One Thing Right!*)

18 Then they called them (Peter and John) in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

Here is the Problem, We Cannot Stop Speaking the Name of Jesus

Acts 4:19-22 But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges!

20 As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

21 After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened.

22 For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

The Report and The Prayer

Acts 4:23-28 On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them.

24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.

God you are large and in charge! And this is what you said would happen.

25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: “‘Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 26 The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.’ 27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. (We get it now. You knew this was going to happen.)

Our 2021 Prayer for Enabled Boldness

Acts 4:29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken.

And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and spoke the word of God boldly.

We Cannot Do What Jesus is Asking Us to Do Without His Holy Spirit

- **Our Great Commission** Matthew 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
- **Doing the Works of Jesus** John 14:12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

How were the disciples going to do the works of Jesus, much less greater things?

How are we supposed to do these things?

Jesus didn't expect them to do this with their own power and ability. They would need more.

Acts 1:4-5 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Even after Jesus commissioned His disciples, He instructed them to wait and not attempt anything in their own power and strength, but to first be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Later, the disciples received the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

Acts 2:1-4 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as **the Spirit enabled them.** They were enabled by the Holy Spirit!

We need more than our own strength, abilities, and talents. We need more than our own boldness... We need to be enabled with the boldness of the Holy Spirit.

Bold Next Step: Every day this week I will pray "Enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." (Acts 4:29-30)

BOLD NEXT STEP I will celebrate with those making their bold declaration of Jesus today through water baptism! And every day, in my life, I will boldly declare Jesus.