
DAY 11 • AUGUST 15

Power to Preach with Boldness**READ: ACTS 3:11-4:14**

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.”

ACTS 4:8-10**REFLECT**

In Acts 1, Jesus instructed the apostles to wait for the Holy Spirit before they leave Jerusalem to witness about Him. One chapter later, we find the Holy Spirit coming to them at Pentecost, causing them to speak in different tongues (Acts 2:4-7). The result of the baptism of the Holy Spirit was the power to preach the gospel.

First, Peter preached to the passersby who were amazed at their speaking in tongues. In just one day, 3,000 people were added to the church (Acts 2:6-41.) Next, Peter healed the lame beggar in Acts 3, and after he noticed the large crowd that marveled at the miracle, he proceeded to preach the gospel there as well.

After three episodes of multitudes being saved by the gospel, opposition in the form of the Sadducees arrived. They arrested Peter, along with John, put him in overnight custody, and brought him to the rulers, elders, and scribes of Jerusalem for interrogation. When Peter was in their midst, they asked him whose authority allowed him to preach. Peter’s response? To preach the gospel, declaring that it was in the name of Jesus Christ.

Peter is an interesting character. He was the first person to confess that Jesus is the Christ (Matthew 16:16). He was also the first person to have walked on water with Jesus, but he eventually sank because his faith had

shifted to fear (Matthew 14:29,30). He also became infamous for denying Jesus thrice (Luke 22:54-62). So how did this Peter, a former uneducated fisherman who had denied Jesus just episodes before, have the confidence and boldness to preach the gospel in eloquence and wisdom? Let's look at the verse again.

*Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, said to them . . .*

ACTS 4:8

It is interesting to note the reaction of the authorities after hearing Peter's speech.

*Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, **they were astonished**. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.*

ACTS 4:13

It is the Holy Spirit who gives us the power to preach the gospel with boldness and authority. It doesn't matter what background we come from—what school we study in, our social status, what our parents do for a living, how much we have in our wallets, or how much we have failed in the past. The Holy Spirit continues to give all of us the same boldness He gave Peter and the rest of the disciples back then to effectively preach the gospel.

Whenever fear tries to stop us from preaching the gospel to someone else, remember it is the Holy Spirit who grants us the boldness to preach the gospel no matter where we are, who we're speaking to, or what the result may be.

RESPOND

1. What stops you from preaching the gospel? What are your thoughts and fears whenever you think about it? What will you do about it?
2. When presented with the opportunity to preach the gospel, how do you respond? What causes you to respond this way? How can you develop the habit of turning to the Holy Spirit for guidance and boldness daily?

PRAY

1. Surrender to God all your fears and worries in preaching the gospel. Pray for Him to grant you strength and joy as you believe for the salvation of your family members and friends.
2. Think of one person you can preach the gospel to this week, and pray for the Holy Spirit to grant you boldness and open doors to preach the gospel to him or her.
3. Pray for favor and more open doors for the gospel to be preached in your campus and community.