

## Overcoming Opposition Acts 4

### Acts 4:16-18 (NIV)

"What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it. But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name." Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

### I. They Saw Obstacles as God's Opportunities

#### Verses 19-20

But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

#### Verses 23-30

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

### Acts 5:12-19

The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. ...more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed. Then the high priest arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life."

### II. They found their Security only in their Savior

#### Verses 10-12

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. He is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

#### Verse 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.

### III. They took confidence in their convictions

## Verses 18 – 20

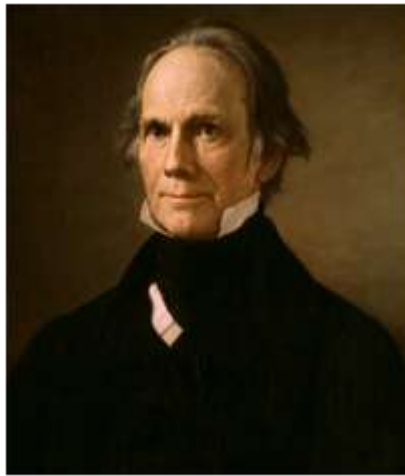
"Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

## Acts 5: 28-32

"We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"

## David Gibbs

A conviction is a belief that does not change regardless of circumstances. It is not a matter of resolve or dedication but is a God-given firmness of position that does not yield to peer-pressure, influence, or threat. Convictions are pre-determined, non-negotiable, confident, and Lived-Out.



"No amount of money could influence me. I am here to be a role model for young girls and show them what really counts ... and that is what is on the inside. I have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; He is my Lord and Savior. My faith has affected my career greatly. I would not be who I am today. God gave me this talent to use and He helps me daily to continue to pursue His will. God has shown me what really matters in life and what true happiness is. True happiness and contentment are not found in the things of this world, but in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ." – *Jennie Finch*

IV. They told the stories of their spiritual successes.

#### Verses 8-10

They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, 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.

#### Verses 16-22

"What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it. 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. For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

V. They sought fellowship with other followers of Christ

#### Verses 23-24

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God.

#### Verses 24-30

"Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them....Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

#### Verses 31-33

After they prayed, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.