

Because of their understanding of Psalm 2, they rightly assessed that what was happening was within God's hand.

ESV Acts 4:29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats ...

What do they say about the threat?

That it is real, but they accept the challenge of it because they trust God will not fail.

4. Their prayer concluded with a request.

ESV Acts 4:29 ... grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,

What did they request?

To submit to God and obey His word.

What did they not request?

Not to face opposition.

Consider how we intentionally conduct our First Wednesday Prayer gathering:

1. We hear from God.
2. We give thanks to God for who he is.
3. We make requests.

ESV **Acts 4:31** And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and *continued to speak* the word of God with boldness.

How did the early Church demonstrate their resolve to faithfully speak the word of God with boldness?

They continued to the speak the word of God with boldness.

How did they respond to their prayer?

And they went out and did it!

Will the Lord hear their prayer? Will God answer their prayer?

1. God DID hear their prayer – a supernatural conformation.
2. The Lord DID answer their prayer – the filling of the Holy Spirit.

What is your thought about prayer?

How will we contribute to the witness of Jesus Christ moving forward?

What is the universal church to do for the expansion of the witness of Jesus?

Sunday, August 9, 2026
Chan Ling, *Intern*

ACTS—The Confident Witness of Jesus Christ
No. 12 | Witnessing in Jerusalem, pt. 4

Acts 4:23-31

Review

Acts is a theological history written to Theophilus to reveal how the early church was born and how it grew, developed, and progressed over first 30 years.

Primary Theme:

- Jesus and his continuing ministry through his apostles.
- The Holy Spirit empowering believers for faithful gospel proclamation for the growth of the universal church in different circumstances, different people groups, and different geographical locations.
- Those who hear and believe the witness of Jesus Christ can and should be confident in following the way by having confidence in God's word and truth.

Witnessing in Jerusalem, pt. 4

4:23-31

Overview

(3:1-8:3) Witnessing in Jerusalem

(3:1-5:42) Witnessing in the temple and from house to house

(3:1-4:31) Boldness in Opposition

(4:32-5:16) Esteem in Community

(5:17-42) Rejoicing in Suffering

3:1-10 The Situation
3:11-26 The Response
4:1-22 The Opposition
4:23-31 The Resolve

Previously

- (2:41-47) Function as a summary statement that provides the context to 3-4:31
(3:1-10) Peter and John took an opportunity to *act* (healed a lame man)
(3:11-26) Peter and John took an opportunity to *speak* (provided the meaning)
(4:1-4) Function as a summary of the *response* to Peter and John's address
(4: 5-22) Peter and John model boldness to *speak* in the midst of opposition

ESV **Acts 4:23** When they were *released*, ...

Who were they released by?
Why were they released?

ESV Acts 4:21 And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened.

What do we see happen after Peter and John were released?

ESV Acts 4:23 ... they went to their *friends* and *reported* what the chief priests and elders had said to them.

How will the witness of Jesus Christ continue in Jerusalem?

Who will participate in this mission of making disciples?

The early church demonstrates resolve to speak the word of God in boldness.

ESV Acts 4:23 When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and elders had said to them. ^{24.a} And when *they heard it* ...

Who are their friends – their own company?

ESV Acts 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

"Friends" wasn't *just* the apostles. It was more likely a larger group of those that had heard and believed and had gathered together at the house. Those a part of the ordinary church.

ESV **Acts 4:24** And when they heard it ...

How did the early Church demonstrate their resolve to speak the word of God with boldness.

They received it with confidence in God's Word.

How did they receive the report?

ESV Acts 4:23 ... what the chief priests and elders had said.

What lenses did they hear the threats through?

1. They knew God word. vv. 25-26
2. They knew God is in control. v. 28
3. They accepted the challenge because they are on God's side. v. 29

Will you hear and interpret things that are happening in your life through the lens of God's sovereignty?

Will you pursue having a biblical worldview?

What does it take to have a biblical worldview?

ESV **Acts 4:24** And when they heard it, they *lifted their voices together* to God and *said*, ...

How did the early Church demonstrate their resolve to speak the word of God with boldness?

They responded in lifting their voices with one accord to God.

What was the substance of their prayer?
What did they pray for?

1. Their prayer was theologically rich.

ESV Acts 4:24 ... and said "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them,
²⁵ ... by the Holy Spirit ... ²⁷ ... your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed,

a. They addressed the Trinitarian God as who he is.

ESV Acts 4:25 who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

b. They had a significant understanding of bibliology.

ESV Acts 4:28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

c. They see the sovereignty of God.

ESV Acts 4:27 ... your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, ...
ESV Acts 4:30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

d. Jesus is the Messiah; by Jesus' name healings and signs are done.

2. Their prayer was scripturally saturated.

ESV **Acts 4:25** ... who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, 'Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶ The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed'—

a. They see the pattern laid out by God from Psalm 2:1-2.

- i. God's sovereignty.
- ii. God will install His Anointed King on mount Zion.
- iii. Opposition will face eternal judgement if they do not repent.

b. They pray for the strength to align with God's plan.

3. Their prayer acknowledged their current situation and their needs.

Is opposition out of God's hand?