

Praying for boldness

Acts 4:1-31

Slides from John Percival's sermon at the morning service
Sunday 18th January 2026

HE'S TAKING ON THE BIG BOYS

BANK OF DAVE



1. The need for boldness (v1-7)

“In this world you will have trouble” (John 16v33)

2. An example of boldness (v8-22)

- Bold about Jesus (v8-12)

Acts 4v8-10

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.

Psalm 118v22

The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone



Acts 4v12

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

2. An example of boldness (v8-22)

- Bold about Jesus (v8-12)
- Bold before people (v13-22)

Acts 4v13

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.

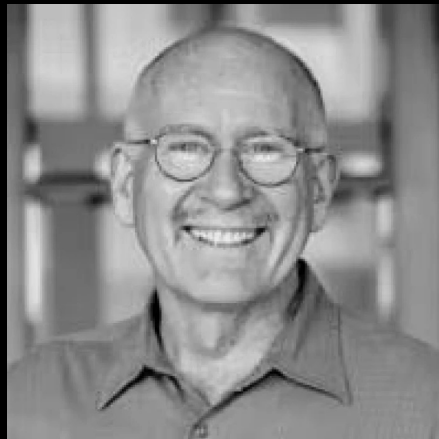
Acts 4v19-20

¹⁹ 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.”

Two occasions when Christians must
“obey God rather than men”

1. Where an authority *commands* something that God *forbids*
2. Where an authority *forbids* something that God *commands*

“If anything is needed in Christian witness today, it is boldness. We don’t need bigger music ministries, longer prayer walks, or nicer church foyers. We need boldness – wise boldness, gracious boldness, boldness rooted in the hope that we have in the gospel, boldness mixed with love, but boldness nonetheless.”



Mack Stiles

3. A prayer for (more) boldness (v23-31)

Acts 4v29

Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

“Why I am alive, I don’t know. But one thing I do know: until my time is up, and I know I will die one day – blood crash, air crash, car crash, whatever crash – until that day, I have a gospel to proclaim. I have a gospel worth living for, and I have a gospel worth dying for. What the enemy intended for harm, God has worked for good in our lives. The attacks and opposition have just made us stronger.”



Benjamin Kwashi

Acts 4v31

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.

“Jesus, I repent, I am sorry for all the ways that I have ignored and rejected you. I am sorry for living my life my own way, and so I consciously turn to you this morning. Please come into my life, please forgive me, I want you to be my Lord and my ruler from now on.”