

IGNITE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

Courageous Faith

Sunday, April 23, 2023

Acts 4:23-35

Facing persecution and opposition, the early church was marked by courageous faith. Reading Acts 4 reminds us that courageous faith is not created by a strong-will but is a divine work of God through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. “Boldness” seems to be a key thought in this chapter. To quote John Bunyan in Pilgrim’s Progress: “There are two things that they have need to be in possession of, that go in pilgrimage; courage and an unspotted life. If they have not courage, they can never hold on their way.”

In Acts 4, we learn the following:

Courageous faith flourishes...

- in a culture of prayer (Acts 4:24-30)
- from a confidence in God’s Word (Acts 4:25-28)
- in a Christian filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:8;31)
- in a community of faith (Acts 4:23, 31, 32-33)

It takes courage to think alone, to resist alone, to stand alone—especially when the crowd seems so safe, so right. Courage is not limited to the battlefield or the Indianapolis 500 or bravely catching a thief in your house. The real tests of courage are much quieter. They are the inner tests, like remaining faithful when nobody’s looking, like enduring pain when the room is empty, like standing alone when you’re misunderstood. (Chuck Swindoll)

Take away:

Courageous faith is...

- vocal (Acts 4:31) – Ask God to help you be vocal about your faith
- missional (Acts 4:33) – Ask God to help you live missionally
- visible (Acts 4:32-37) – Ask God to help you be a visible testimony for Christ

Courage is one of the greatest manifestations of faith. Courageous faith is confident that God cannot and will not make a mistake. Courageous faith knows that God cannot be wrong. Courageous faith is confident that God can never be defeated. (Michael Yousseff)