

# There is No Other Way

## A Study in Acts Chapter Four

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### **By the Word**

#### **Faith Comes by Hearing**

*“Many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.”* (Acts 4:4) As Peter and John taught in the temple, many of those who heard the word believed. About five thousand men believed. They believed because of the preaching of the word. *“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* (Romans 10:17)

Faith comes by hearing. There is nothing else that will produce faith – not entertainment, not dramas or parties, not special events, but by the preaching of the word. *“The preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness.”* (I Corinthians 1:18) However, the preaching of the cross is also powerful. Romans 1:16 says, *“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”*

No miracles or works or any other exciting things will convince people of the truth of the Gospel if they refuse to believe the word of God. This is brought out in the story of the rich man and Lazarus as Abraham converses with Lazarus, *“Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.”* (Luke 16:29-31) Even the miracle of one rising from the dead will not convince a person who refuses to believe the word of God. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. There is no other way.

### **By the Name**

#### **No other name**

Peter and John had been put in prison for preaching the word in the temple. The next day Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and all the kindred of the high priest gathered themselves together. They set Peter and John in the midst of them and then asked, *“By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?”* (Acts 4:7b) Peter and John had healed a lame man, and those who put them on trial wanted to know who gave these men the power and authority to heal the lame man.

*“<sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, <sup>9</sup>If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; <sup>10</sup>Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you*

whole. <sup>12</sup>*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*" (Verses 8-10,12)

Peter was filled with the Holy Ghost. He answered that the impotent man had been healed by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. It was by Him, by Jesus, that the man could stand before them whole. It was Jesus that had healed the man. Jesus is the Great Physician.

Jesus does not only heal bodies. He also heals souls. *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* Jesus is the only One who can save. There is salvation through the name of Jesus. There is none other name under heaven that can save. Not one. Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* (John 14:6) No man comes to the Father but by Jesus Christ. In John 10:9, Jesus said, *"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved."* In John 12:32, Jesus, speaking of His coming death on the cross, said, *"I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."*

Salvation cannot come through penance, pilgrimages, denying one's self, paying offerings or indulgences, keeping the Ten Commandments, resisting evil, baptism, or any other works. Salvation comes only through the Lord Jesus Christ.

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### **By Spending Time with Jesus Be with Jesus**

After the chief priest and all that were with him had questioned Peter and John, *"they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."* (Acts 4:13)

Peter and John were fishermen. They were not "learned men," educated men. Yet they were bold in the things of the Lord. Because of this, the chief priest and the others knew that they had been with Jesus. Being with Jesus produces boldness. During His earthly ministry, Jesus had promised Peter, *"Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men."* (See Luke 5:10) James and John were also with Peter at that time. Now John and Peter were filled with boldness and courage to stand up for Jesus. They had spent three years training with Jesus, and Jesus taught them not to fear but to speak for Him.

Jesus also gave the disciples another promise of what He would do for them when they were brought before rulers for His name's sake. He said, *"I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist."* (Luke 21:15) John and Peter were bold because they knew they had the authority of Jesus to back them up.

This is a good lesson. We want to be bold for Christ, but often we are afraid. How do we gain boldness? Spend time with Jesus. Be with Him. Learn of Him. Be confident that we have His authority to back us up.

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## **By the Authority of Jesus Christ**

### **Enemies of the Cross Afraid of Jesus: Peter and John not Afraid or Intimidated**

The high priest and all that were with him were perplexed. What were they going to do about Peter and John? *“When they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, <sup>16</sup>Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.”* (Acts 4:15,16)

These men could not deny what Christ had done through Peter and John because the evidence was right there before them. They decided that the next best thing was to keep it from spreading any further. So they said, *“<sup>17</sup>But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. <sup>18</sup>And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.”* (verses 17,18) After talking among themselves, they decided on threats. Peter and John were commanded not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. The enemies of the cross of Christ were afraid of Jesus. They saw the power that came through Jesus’ name and felt that their own power and influence were threatened. Because they refused to believe in Jesus, this frightened them.

Peter and John were not afraid or intimidated. *“<sup>19</sup>But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. <sup>20</sup>For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”* (verses 19,20) Peter and John knew that it was not right to listen to or be afraid of the threatening of the high priest and the other men. They could only speak what they had seen and heard from the Lord Jesus Christ.

The high priest and others with him were persistent but they were helpless under the situation. *“So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.”* (verse 21) What Peter and John had done brought glory to God. Therefore, the enemies of the cross could not act against it. They simply threatened Peter and John some more and then let them go. Peter and John *“went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. <sup>24</sup>And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord.”* (from verses 23,24)

Peter and John were able to do God’s work and to stand against the enemies of the cross because they went forward in the authority of Jesus Christ. I know I am often intimidated by the enemies of the cross. Do I remember that I have the authority of Jesus Christ to do the work of God? That is how to do the work of God effectually and with power.

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## **By Prayer**

### **Power and Boldness and Unity**

*“Being let go,”* Peter and John, *“went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. <sup>24</sup>And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord.”* (Acts 4:23,24a) Right away, Peter and John went and shared what had happened with the other believers. The reaction of the believers was to lift up their voices to God with one accord.

First, the believers acknowledged who God is and that He is all powerful, *“and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is.”* (verse 23b) They understood that God had made all things, and that God is in control.

Secondly, the believers acknowledged that the rulers of the day were not against them but against God and His holy child Jesus. *“<sup>25</sup>Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? <sup>26</sup>The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. <sup>27</sup>For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, <sup>28</sup>For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. <sup>29</sup>And now, Lord, behold their threatenings...”*

Thirdly, the believers acknowledged that boldness comes from the Lord, from His power, and through the authority of the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, *“<sup>29</sup>And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, <sup>30</sup>By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.”* (verses 29,30)

Through prayer, the believers saw the power of God and were filled with the Holy Spirit and with boldness, *“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.”* (verse 31)

Because they sought the Lord together, the believers were united in one, *“And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul.”* (verse 32a)

Power, boldness, and unity come by prayer. They come by seeking the Lord together and acknowledging the greatness of God, His power, and the authority of the name of His Son, Jesus Christ.

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### **By Selflessness Great Power and Grace**

*“And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.”* (Acts 4:32)

The multitude of those who believed had selfless hearts. They were of one heart and one soul. They loved each other. Thus they showed that they were Jesus’ disciples, for Jesus said, *“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”* (John 13:35)

These disciples of Jesus showed their love for one another by not being selfish with what they had. They did not consider “ought” or any of their possessions to be their own but considered them freely accessible to each other to use whenever they had need. Because these believers loved Christ, they had selfless hearts and loved each other.

What was the result of this selflessness and love for each other?

1. They had a good testimony and were able to witness to the lost with great power and grace.

*“And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.” (Acts 4:33) When His workers have a good testimony and love for one another, God gives them great power and effectiveness in ministry. “For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as **ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.**” (I Thessalonians 1:5)*

2. No one lacked anything they needed. <sup>34</sup>*Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, <sup>35</sup>And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.” (Acts 4:34,35)*

Everything was given to the Lord. The things that were given to the Lord were used to provide for those that had need. No one lacked.

Effective, powerful ministry and unity and love among the brethren come from selflessness. All is given to Jesus and nothing is considered to be one's own.

There is no other way.