

God's Power Opposed (Acts 3-4)

God's Power Continues – Part 4
Life Church St. Louis – April 26, 2015
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Mark 16:17-18 (NIV) And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ... they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

Matthew 12:24 (NIV) But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."

John 11:47-48 (NIV) Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. "What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this man performing many miraculous signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him ..."

2 Timothy 3:4b-5 (NIV) ... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God--having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

1. _____ God's power

Acts 3:1-2 (NIV) One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer--at three in the afternoon. Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.

1A. See the _____ around you

Acts 3:3-4 (NIV) When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!"

1B. _____ the gift of God's power

Acts 3:6-7 (NIV) Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

1C. All the believers spoke in other _____

Acts 2:4 (NIV) All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

2. _____ for God's power

Acts 3:16, 19 (NIV) By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see. ... Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

2A. Be prepared for _____

Acts 4:1-3 (NIV) The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day.

2B. _____ God, not men

Acts 4:18-20 (NIV) Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 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."

3. _____ for God's power

Acts 4:23 (NIV) 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.

3A. Acknowledge Gods' _____

Acts 4:24 (NIV) When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.

3B. _____ for boldness and power

Acts 4:29-30 (NIV) 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."

3C. _____ God's answer

Acts 4:31 (NIV) 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.

God's Power Opposed (Acts 3-4) Study Guide

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Intro. The Bible speaks of Jesus and the early church being accompanied by signs. What do these signs point to (Mark 16:17-18)?

Why did the religious establishment accuse Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Satan (Matthew 12:24)?

What did the religious leaders get upset about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:47-48)?

In the last days people will have a form of godliness but deny its power (2 Timothy 3:4-5). What examples do we see of this today?

1A. In what ways does regular prayer prepare you to demonstrate God's power (Acts 3:1-2)? How else had Peter and John been prepared by God (Acts 1:8)?

1B. How do you think the Holy Spirit alerted Peter to minister to the cripple (Acts 3:3-4)?

1C. What did Peter have to give the cripple (Acts 3:6-7)? What did Peter have to exercise in order to demonstrate God's power?

1D. How does the example of Peter encourage you to demonstrate God's power through your own life?

2A. How does Peter's message to the crowd show that any believer can demonstrate God's power (Acts 3:12, 16)?

2B. Why was the religious establishment so upset with Peter and John (Acts 4:1-3)?

2C. How does Jesus' command in Acts 1:8 conflict with the command of the religious leaders to Peter and John (Acts 4:18-20)? What does Peter's answer mean for him and for us?

2D. In what ways is the religious establishment opposed to God's power today?

3A. What is significant about how the early church responded to the first major opposition to God's power (Acts 4:23-24)?

3B. What did the early church pray for during this first persecution (Acts 4:29-30)?

3C. How does God's response to their prayer validate their request (Acts 4:31)?

3D. Why should we seek boldness and power today (1 Corinthians 14:1)?