

First Baptist Church of Progress Village
Wednesday Bible Study
The Acts of the Apostles Series: Chapter 3 & 4
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Keywords: Courageous Evangelism

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Last week, New Testament Church served by God's grace and provision.

We find five key activities to the early church that should be repeated and experienced today still with us. Discipleship, Fellowship, Ministry, Worship, Evangelism.

I. The EVENT that grabbed the people's attention.

Acts 3:1-7 (KJV) *Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.*

The man was completely changed through the service of God's servants.

II. The EXCITEMENT that the people expressed.

Acts 3:8-11 *And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God: And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him. And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.*

The people were completely attracted to the product of the miracle.

III. The EXPLANATION that the people needed.

A. Peter's 2ND sermon

1. Giving God the GLORY in everything as the hope, the source and the motivation.

Acts 3:12-16 (KJV) *And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.*

2. Exercising Faith in Action.

Acts 3:16 *And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.*

Our faith is demonstrated through our action and persistent **trust** and **reliance** upon God.

Matthew 5:16 (KJV) *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

3. Acknowledging our wrongdoing through repentance.

Acts 3:17-19 (KJV) *And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;*

4. Accepting Jesus for forgiveness and eternal life.

Acts 3:26 (KJV) *Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.*

Acts 3:22-23 (KJV) *For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that*

every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

IV. The Extraction and Examination to control the people.

A. The Sadducees abduct Peter and John to suppress the gospel.

***Acts 4:1-4 (KJV)** And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide. Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.*

B. Peter was strengthened by the Holy Spirit with courage.

***Acts 4:7-10 (KJV)** And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; 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.*

C. The only way to salvation is through faith in Jesus alone.

***Acts 4:11-12 (KJV)** This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

D. The early church were not qualified by man's measure, they were called by God.

***Acts 4:13-14 (KJV)** Now when 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. And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.*

V. The Excusal / Release back to the people.

A. No defense against the truth of Jesus.

Acts 4:15-18 (KJV) *But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, 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. But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.*

B. There is no offense to God and those he calls operating in His will. (Fruit of the spirit Gal 5:22-23)

Romans 8:31-33 (KJV) *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*

C. Witnesses to God's love have an unshakeable obligation to tell it.

Acts 4:19-20 (KJV) *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. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.*

Psalms 118:6-9 (KJV) *The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me? The LORD taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me. It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.*

D. We are continually fueled by the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 4:31 (KJV) *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.*

Next Week: Read Acts Chapter 4:32 through the end of Chapter 5