

The Book of Acts

Living Holy in the Family of God

Volume One
Chapters 1-5

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Acknowledgment

My wife, Beverly Allen, has devoted herself to ChristAssembly.org. Most days her body gives her trouble, but she spends time helping ChristAssembly.org. She brings her doctoral training in biochemistry and molecular biology to her work and greatly improves the quality of ChristAssembly.org. She has spent many hours creating graphics, reviewing articles and books, and providing careful proof reading, even when she does not feel her best. Other friends from Korea have helped in proof reading books for ChristAssembly.org, with our thanks in Christ Jesus for their friendship and faithful labors.

Beverly and I have been married more than forty years and Jesus used her life to make my life so much better in so many ways. Her constant love and support changes my life daily. She also provides honest feedback and careful analysis. I love my wife and want everyone to know that she spends her time serving Jesus behind the scenes at ChristAssembly.org.



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1

Introduction

The Book of Acts provides a spiritual history of the beginning of the Church of Jesus Christ. Although the Book of Acts does not disclose its author, many people understand that Luke wrote the Book of Acts. The history of Acts covers the period from about 36 A.D. (Ascension of Jesus) to about 65 A.D. (Persecution by Nero).

After Jesus ascended into heaven, the apostles waited in Jerusalem, pursuant to His command, for the Holy Spirit to come upon them and then they would be witnesses of Jesus to the whole world, beginning in Jerusalem. The Book of Acts provides a record of the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ geographically out from Jerusalem.

At Pentecost the Holy Spirit established a new relationship with saints and the church was born. The Holy Spirit took up permanent residence in each individual saint at the moment of salvation. Simultaneously, Jesus baptized all the saints with the Holy Spirit and they were each sealed with the Holy Spirit for the day of redemption. The Holy Spirit also indwells the church as the body of Jesus Christ.

Judas Iscariot had held the office of apostle, but he died a broken man destined for eternal punishment for his unbelief in Jesus. The apostles prayed that God would reveal to them the man He selected to fill the vacant office of apostle and complete the ministry. They drew lots and the lot fell to a man named Matthias. The Lord chose Matthias to fill the ministry and apostleship of Judas Iscariot. Matthias had been with the other apostles and with Jesus since the baptism of John and through the ascension of Jesus. He was an eyewitness of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles like a rushing wind, and tongues of fire. He filled the apostles and they spoke in foreign languages known by the members of the crowd standing around them.

Peter stood up and began proclaiming Christ to the crowd. He started by quoting the Old Testament and showing how the things happening that day fulfilled the prophecy of Joel. Three thousand souls were added to the church that day. Multitudes more followed day by day. The early church kept feeling a sense of awe as many signs and wonders were taking place through the apostles.

The congregation began selling their property and sharing all things. The needs of all the members of the congregation were being met. They were continuing in the temple and from house to house. They were devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship and to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

As the church prospered, the religious Council took notice of the tremendous growth of the church. They first arrested Peter and John whom God used to heal the beggar sitting at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple. After warning them to stop preaching and teaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Peter and John replied that they could not stop preaching and teaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. After warning them again, the religious Council released them. Even so, they returned to preaching and teaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus. They also strengthened the church with a message recounting the persecutions of the Lord Jesus. The place they had gathered was shaken and the people were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness. The congregation continued of one heart and soul and shared all things as common property. The apostles continued giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord with great power. People began bringing the proceeds of their sale of private property to the apostles and laid the proceeds at their feet. Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, sold some property and placed it at the feet of the apostles. They called him Barnabas, which means son of encouragement, and he would play a big role in Acts.

Ananias, and Sapphira his wife, sold a piece of property and made a fatal agreement between them. They agreed to take some of the money to the apostles, but hold back the remainder of the sale price for their personal use. When Ananias appeared before Peter, he questioned Ananias about whether the sums brought to Peter constituted the full sale price. Ananias affirmed

that he had brought the entire sale price to Peter. Peter then asked him why he was lying to the Holy Spirit and Ananias fell down dead. Shortly afterwards Sapphira said the same thing to Peter and she too fell down dead before Peter. The early church heard the news about Ananias and Sapphira and did not associate anymore with the apostles out of great fear, but they still esteemed them highly.

God performed many signs and wonders through the hands of the apostles. Multitudes of men and women were added to the number of the church. People from Jerusalem and the regions nearby even brought in the sick so that the shadow of Peter might fall on them and they would be healed.

The high priest and his associates arrested the apostles and put them in a public jail. During the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison and led the apostles out. The angel commanded them to go and stand in the Temple and preach the message of this whole life. The apostles obeyed and went to the Temple about daybreak and began to teach.

The high priest and associates then convened a meeting with the religious Council, amounting to all the Senate of the sons of Israel. They sent orders to the jail for the prisoners to be brought before the Council. When the officers did not find the prisoners in the jail, everyone was perplexed. Then a report reached the religious Council saying that the apostles were in the Temple preaching and teaching. The Council dispatched the captain along with the officers to bring back the apostles without violence for fear the crowds stoning them.

When the apostles were brought back before the Council, the high priest questioned them. He reminded them that they had been given strict orders not to teach in the Name of Jesus Christ, yet they filled Jerusalem with the teaching and intended to bring the blood of Jesus Christ upon them. Peter and the apostles answered saying that they must obey God rather than men. Peter and the apostles continued by showing that the God of our fathers raised up Jesus, but they hung Him on a cross. God highly exalted Jesus to His right hand as the Prince and Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. The apostles were witnesses of these things along with the Holy Spirit, Whom God has given to those who obey Him.

At this point the religious leaders were cut through and intended to kill the apostles. A Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law and respected by the people, stood up and urged the council to wait and see what would

happen with the apostles. Gamaliel counseled that if the men were from God, they would not be able to overthrow them and the Council might even be found fighting against God. The Council took his advice. They called in the apostles and flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the Name of the Lord Jesus and released them. The apostles left, rejoicing that they been considered worthy to suffer shame for His Name. Every day in the Temple and from house to house they kept right on preaching and teaching Jesus as the Christ.

HALLELUJAH !

2

Gathering Today

The Book of Acts opens by looking back at the first account about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day He was taken up to heaven after He had given orders by the Holy Spirit to His chosen apostles. The writer of Acts named Theophilus as a recipient. Acts presents an historical narrative of the events of the early church guided and directed by the Holy Spirit.

The Lord Jesus presented Himself alive after His suffering. He presented many convincing proofs and appeared over the course of forty days, speaking about the kingdom of God.

Jesus gathered His apostles together and commanded them not to leave Jerusalem. Jesus directed them to wait for the fulfillment of the Father's promise given through the Lord Jesus: John baptized with water, but Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

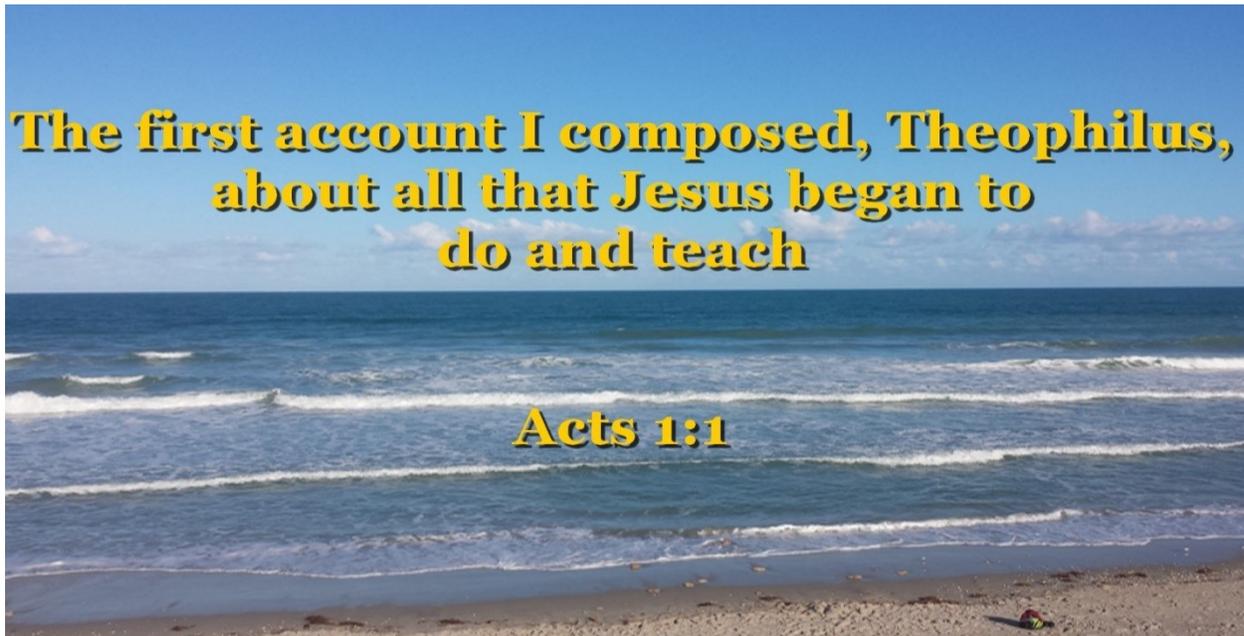
When the apostles had gathered together with Him, they wanted to know if the Lord Jesus was going to restore the kingdom to Israel at that time. Jesus replied that it was not for them to know the times or epochs which the Father had fixed by His own authority. Jesus promised that the apostles would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Then

they would be the witnesses of Jesus Christ both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and even to the remotest part of the earth. This geographical plan of expansion of Christianity, through the witness of the early church and apostles, laid the foundation for the Book of Acts. As the church expanded in numbers, persecutions arose which scattered saints abroad, while the apostles remained in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit was at work in the lives of many people, using their spiritual gifts to the glory of God.

HALLELUJAH !

Day One

First Today



How did Luke begin the Book of Acts? Luke began the Book by tying it to the Gospel of Luke, the first account he composed about all that Jesus began to do and teach.

Luke, the beloved physician, traveled with Paul and other missionaries in the Book of Acts. He apparently joined the missionary team after their first journey and wrote as an eyewitness of those events.

Luke also relied upon other sources and careful investigation to write Acts. God breathed out the Holy Words of Acts as Luke wrote them down. Luke wrote the words of God, but did so using his own vocabulary and syntax. Luke wrote in his own style just as the other authors of the New Testament wrote in their own style. Even so, God breathed out all the words of the New Testament in the original autographs.

The Book of Acts provides a history of the transition from the incarnate (in the flesh) ministry of Jesus to the building of His church. The Book also

provides careful documentation of the ministry of the Holy Spirit, working hand in hand with God the Father and God the Son.

Composed

1. **Luke**. Who wrote the Book of Acts? Luke wrote both the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts, which he wrote to Theophilus (God friend or God love)
2. **Physician**. Luke was the beloved physician who traveled with Paul.
3. **Gospel**. Luke wrote the first account of all that Jesus began to do and teach and we call that book The Gospel according to Luke.
4. **Inspired**. God inspired all the words of the original autographs of the New Testament.
5. **Accurate**. God superintended the process of composing the Book of Acts so that it accurately reflected the events Luke described.
6. **Ascension**. Living holy in the family of God means that we know that Luke recorded events following the ascension of Jesus.
7. **Holy Spirit**. We rejoice today because Jesus sent the Holy Spirit just as He promised and the Holy Spirit dominates the Book of Acts.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Luke wrote both the Gospel of Luke (recording all that Jesus began to do and to teach) and the Book of Acts.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by giving heed to the words of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by believing and heeding the word of God.**

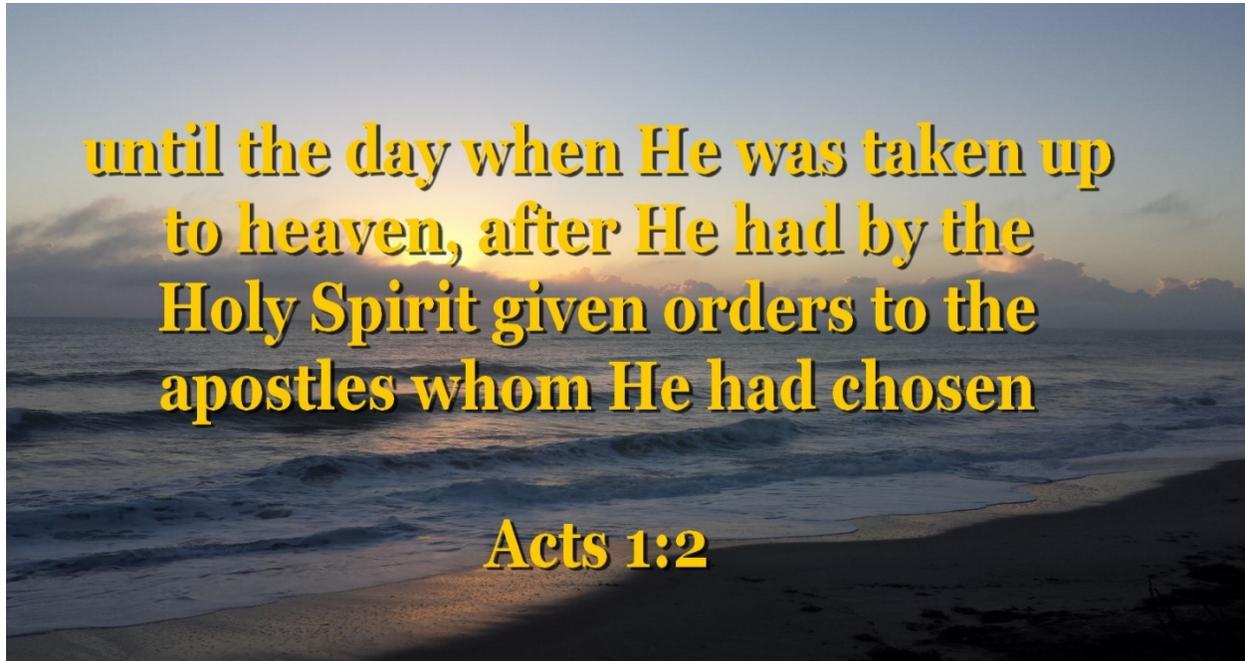
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by sanctifying ourselves in the word of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by believing and heeding the word of God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 2

Taken Today



What did Jesus do before He was taken up to heaven? Jesus gave orders by the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen.

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He told His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit to them. In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit was **with** people, but not **in** people. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be in the disciples in the future.

As we will see, at Pentecost the Holy Spirit filled the apostles and the prophecy of Jesus was fulfilled. The Holy Spirit had come to live in the apostles. Jesus baptized them with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus gave the orders by the Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts chronicles the work of the Holy Spirit and the continuing the ministry of Jesus Christ

on earth. The disciples of Jesus continue His work to this day in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Orders

1. **Until**. Where did Luke end his gospel? He ended his gospel with Jesus being taken up to heaven.

1. **Taken Up**. Jesus ascended to heaven from the Mount of Olives, in the sight of His disciples.

2. **Holy Spirit**. Jesus gave orders to His disciples by the Holy Spirit, indicating the role of the Holy Spirit in those orders.

3. **Orders**. As God, the Holy Spirit gives authoritative orders to the apostles.

4. **Apostles**. Please keep in mind the distinction between: (a) the office of apostle (held by the unbeliever Judas Iscariot, among the eleven others) and the spiritual gift of apostle (held by Paul and others).

5. **Jesus**. Luke wrote about the transition from the earthly ministry of Jesus to the earthly ministry of the Holy Spirit.

6. **Continuation**. Living holy in the family of God means that we see Jesus continue His ministry on earth through the Holy Spirit.

7. **Chosen**. We rejoice today because Jesus chose the saints to continue His ministry today through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by receiving the orders Jesus gave by the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by obeying the orders Jesus gave to the apostles.**
- **We live holy together in the family of God by joining together to fulfill the ministry of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

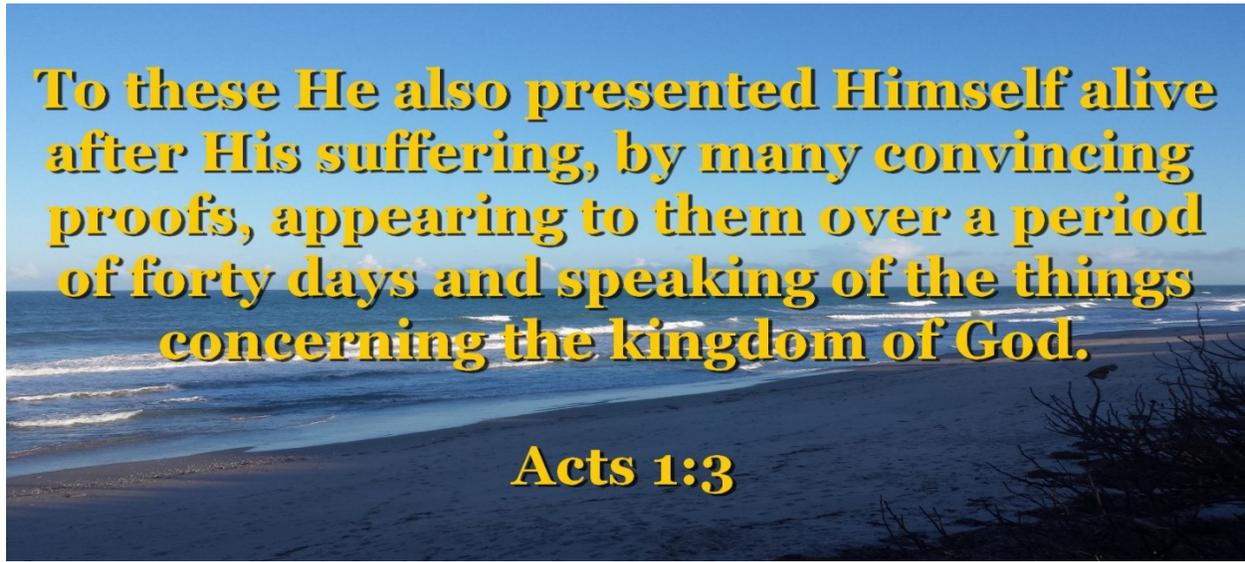
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by heeding the orders Jesus gave by the Holy Spirit. Will you live holy in the family of God today by obeying the orders Jesus gave by the Holy Spirit?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 3

Alive Today



Why did the apostles believe that Jesus lived after the crucifixion? The apostles saw Jesus in His glorified body after His crucifixion.

Jesus presented Himself alive to the apostles after His suffering. Jesus not only suffered on the cross, but He also suffered tremendous attacks by the hands of the Romans before He was crucified. Jesus was marred more than any man.

Jesus showed Himself as the Risen Savior by many convincing proofs. Jesus left no reasonable doubt that He had been raised from the dead and had a body that could eat and drink. His glorified body still bore the marks of the crucifixion and the stabbing in His side.

Jesus intended to show the disciples that He had conquered death and had been resurrected by the power of God. He perfectly fulfilled all those plans. The apostles bore eyewitness testimony to the resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. He appeared to them over a period of 40 days. Jesus spoke to them things concerning the kingdom of God.

Convincing

1. **Apostles**. Who saw Jesus alive after His crucifixion? Jesus presented Himself to the apostles after He suffered on the cross.

2. **Presented**. Jesus intentionally appeared to the disciples after the crucifixion, proving His resurrection and His continued ministry to the disciples.

3. **Suffering**. Jesus suffered for our sins and was raised for our justification.

4. **Convincing**. Jesus provided many convincing proofs. He intended that His disciples would have a firsthand knowledge of His resurrection and His glorified body.

5. **Forty**. Jesus appeared to them several times over the course of 40 days and then He ascended back to heaven.

6. **Speaking**. Living holy in the family of God means that we rest our faith upon convincing proofs about Jesus and His resurrection provided by eyewitness testimony from multiple sources.

7. **Kingdom of God**. We rejoice today because Jesus spoke about the kingdom of God and we know He will return to establish His physical kingdom on earth in the future.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by accepting the eyewitness testimony of the apostles concerning Jesus and His resurrection.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the convincing proofs Jesus provided of His resurrection and of His glorified body which He showed to the apostles.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another with the testimony and proof of Jesus about His resurrection and the kingdom of God.**

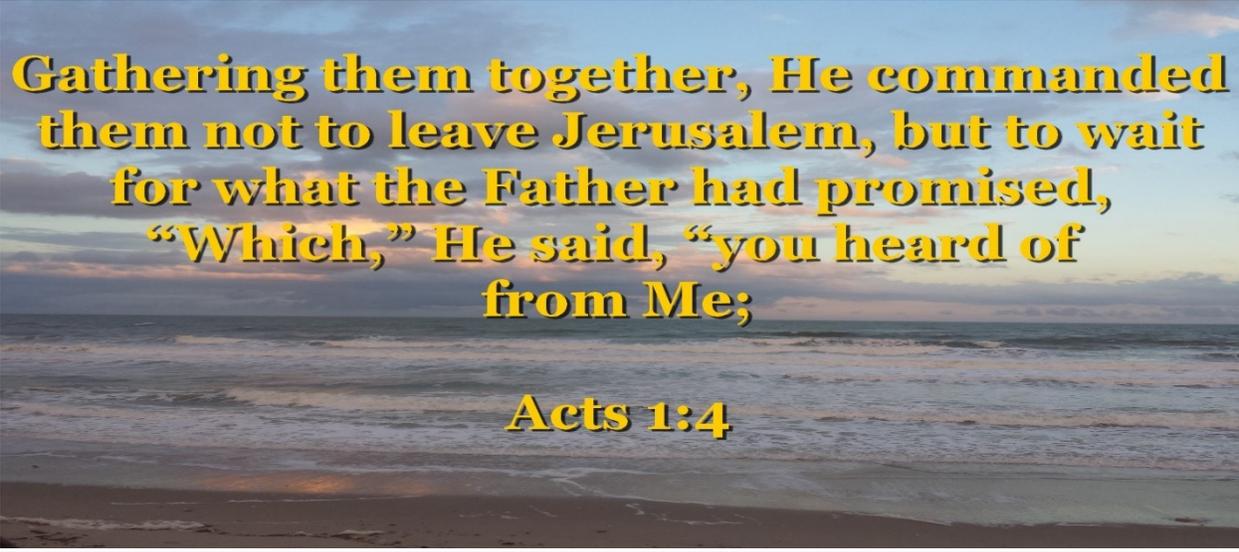
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by sharing the convincing proofs of Jesus and His resurrection. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming Jesus as the Risen Savior and the many convincing proofs He showed?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 4

Wait Today



Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me;

Acts 1:4

Why did Jesus gather His apostles together? He gathered them together to command them not to leave Jerusalem.

After His resurrection, Jesus gathered together the apostles. He intended to remind them of the promise of the Father, which the apostles heard from Jesus.

Luke emphasized the gathering together. Jesus wanted the apostles to stay together. By staying together, they would experience the fulfillment of the promise together. Jesus placed high value on keeping those apostles together until the promise of the Father was fulfilled.

God had specific plans for the apostles, which required that they stay together in Jerusalem. Jesus treated them as one group, united by faith in God. Jesus also indicated that Jerusalem was the place where God would fulfill His promise.

Jerusalem holds a very prominent place in all prophecy. Jesus will reign from Jerusalem when He sets up His millennial kingdom on earth, having vanquished the invaders of Jerusalem and His enemies worldwide.

The apostles waited in Jerusalem because God had great plans for both Jerusalem and the apostles.

Promised

1. **Gathering**. Why did Jesus gather the apostles? Jesus gathered together the apostles for the specific purpose of the fulfillment of the Father's promise.

2. **Them**. Jesus had a special relationship with the apostles, because He chose them to be with Him and to be His witnesses after His ascension.

3. **Together**. Jesus specifically wanted the apostles to be together. The promise of the Father focused upon the group of apostles.

4. **Commanded**. Jesus commanded the apostles and counted upon their obedience to Him.

5. **Jerusalem**. Jesus commanded the apostles to remain in Jerusalem. Just as Jesus was crucified in Jerusalem, so also the apostles would receive the promise of the Father as one group in Jerusalem.

6. **Father**. Living holy in the family of God means that we obey the commands of God so that the promises of God may be fulfilled in us

7. **Me**. We rejoice today because God has great promises for the apostles and many of those promises also flow down to us today.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by following the commands of Jesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by gathering together pursuant to the command of Jesus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by joining together as one group to enjoy the promises of God.**

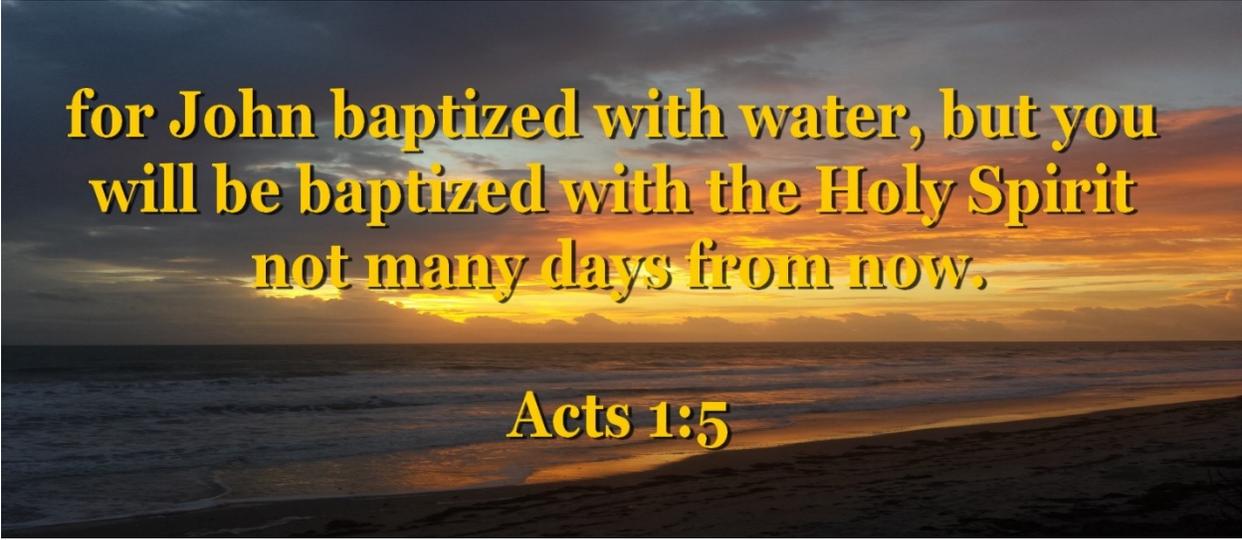
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by obeying Jesus and keeping the commands of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by gathering together with other believers to enjoy the commands of God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 5

Baptized Today

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sky is filled with orange and yellow clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon. The water is dark with some white foam from waves. The text is overlaid in a bold, yellow, serif font.

**for John baptized with water, but you
will be baptized with the Holy Spirit
not many days from now.**

Acts 1:5

What did Jesus prophesy about the Holy Spirit? Jesus prophesied that the apostles would be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

John the Baptist proclaimed the kingdom of God and urged people to be baptized in water for the repentance of transgressions. John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus, the Savior.

As Jesus spoke to the apostles in the upper room on the night before His crucifixion, He prophesied that the Holy Spirit would be given to the apostles, and that the Holy Spirit would be in them.

In the program of God, Jesus ascended to heaven and the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit filled them and they began ministry in Jerusalem, having been gathered together by Jesus and commanded to remain there until the promise of the Father was fulfilled.

At Pentecost Jesus, having already ascended to heaven, baptized the apostles with the Holy Spirit. From that time forward, the saints received the Holy Spirit upon hearing and believing in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Book of Acts provides details about the expansion of Christianity from

Jerusalem to Judea and to Samaria and to the ends of the earth. The Holy Spirit filled believers as the apostles and others spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Holy Spirit

1. **John**. Why did Jesus mention John the Baptist? John the Baptist prophesied that Jesus would come and baptize people with the Holy Spirit.

2. **Baptized**. John the Baptist baptized people with water. Jesus baptized people who had faith in Him for salvation with the Holy Spirit, beginning at Pentecost.

3. **Water**. John the Baptist immersed people in water for the repentance of sins.

4. **Holy Spirit**. The Holy Spirit has always been God, just like God the Father and God the Son. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was with people, but in the New Testament, after Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled people and indwelt people, so that He lived within each saint.

5. **Not Many**. Jesus prophesied that not many days from now that He would baptize the apostles with the Holy Spirit.

6. **Days**. Jesus provided a specific time in days for the apostles to remain in Jerusalem so that they would be together when He would baptize them with the Holy Spirit.

7. **Now**. Every prophecy that Jesus made constituted a revelation from God about events. As Jesus looked into the future, He promised His disciples that they would be baptized in the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by trusting Jesus to keep His promises and fulfill His prophecies.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by enjoying our baptism with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that we are one family baptized by Jesus with the Holy Spirit.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping the Holy Spirit who indwells us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by walking in the Holy Spirit?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 6

Asking Today



When the apostles came together, what was on their mind? They asked Jesus if He was restoring the kingdom of God at this time.

Like many people in Israel, the apostles always hoped that Jesus would restore the kingdom of God immediately. Jesus said that His kingdom was not of this world. Jesus meant that He was the King, but now was not the time for Him to establish His physical kingdom on earth.

Having seen Jesus crucified and resurrected, the apostles knew that Jesus had the power as God to do all things. They longed for the kingdom of God to come to earth. They felt comfortable asking Jesus questions then and so they asked about the kingdom of God.

Jesus felt comfortable answering their questions, but not providing all the details they sought. Jesus revealed the information they needed, not necessarily all they wanted to know. In our lives we should learn from the

apostles that Jesus provides all the revelation we need for life and Godliness, as we need it.

Restoring the Kingdom

1. **They**. Why did Jesus command the disciples to stay together in Jerusalem? Jesus commanded the disciples to stay together until they received power. They were to wait for God's timing.

2. **Together**. God intended them to receive together the blessing of the Holy Spirit as one group at one time.

3. **Asking**. The apostles asked Jesus about His plans for Israel, because they were still looking for the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about Messiah being the King of Israel.

4. **Lord**. The apostles still referred to Jesus as Lord, honoring Him with their words.

5. **Time**. The apostles did not doubt that Jesus would restore the kingdom, but they were looking for that restoration right away.

6. **Restoring**. Living holy in the family of God means that we trust Jesus to restore the kingdom to Israel and bring His kingdom to earth at the time He has chosen, not ours.

7. **Kingdom**. We rejoice today because Jesus knows all the answers to all questions and guides our lives to be part of His divine, eternal plan so that we may glorify God in all things.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by asking Jesus our questions.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by accepting the answers Jesus provides as Lord.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus for His timing and the power He brings into our lives.**

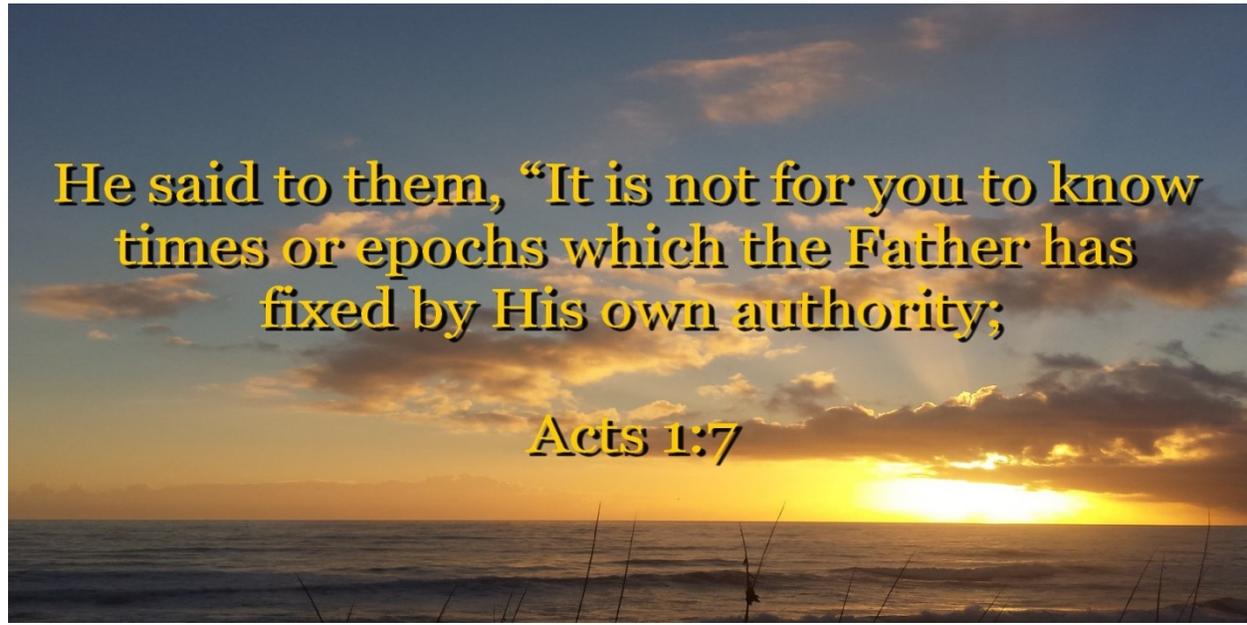
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving Jesus for His willingness to hear us, listen to our questions and provide divine answers. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting Jesus to fulfill His plans for our lives as they fit into His eternal plans?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 7

Times or Epochs Today



How did Jesus answer the question of the apostles? He told them that it was not for them to know the times or special times which the Father had fixed by His own authority.

Jesus never promised to tell us everything we wanted to know whenever we wanted to know it. We call Him Lord because we are His slaves and should obey Him without reservation. We must trust Jesus to know the way so that we follow Him, never trying to lead Him. Jesus said that He did not tell His apostles everything because they were not able to bear it.

Jesus revealed that time may be divided into times and opportunities. Jesus used the word “times” (“chronos”) to describe common periods of time, like a day, hour or year. He also used the term “epoch” (“kairos”) to describe a special time of action, such as harvest time. Galatians 4:10 provides a nice description of days and months and “epoch” (“kairos”) and years. Revelation 12:13 describes three and a half years of tribulation as epoch, epochs, and half an epoch, all using the same root word “kairos.”

Therefore, the term “kairos” may describe a special period of time as short as a moment, or as long as years.

Authority

1. **Not**. What did Jesus tell the apostles about times and epochs? Jesus told the apostles that it was not for them to know the times or epochs fixed by the Father.

2. **Know**. Jesus revealed many things to the apostles, but He never promised that they would know everything.

3. **Times and Epochs**. Jesus described prophetic time as composed of both chronos time and kairos time.

4. **Father**. God the Father fixes both chronos time and kairos according to His plans, not ours.

5. **Fixed**. God the Father has fixed both times and epochs according to His divine will and His purposes.

6. **Own**. Living holy in the family of God means that we live with the certain knowledge that God has already fixed both times and epochs according to His divine will.

7. **Authority**. We rejoice today because God fixes times and epochs according to His own authority, and His authority remains supreme.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God has fixed both times and epochs.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ to reveal to us what we know when we need to know it.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by following the revelation God has given to us, without grumbling about what we do not know.**

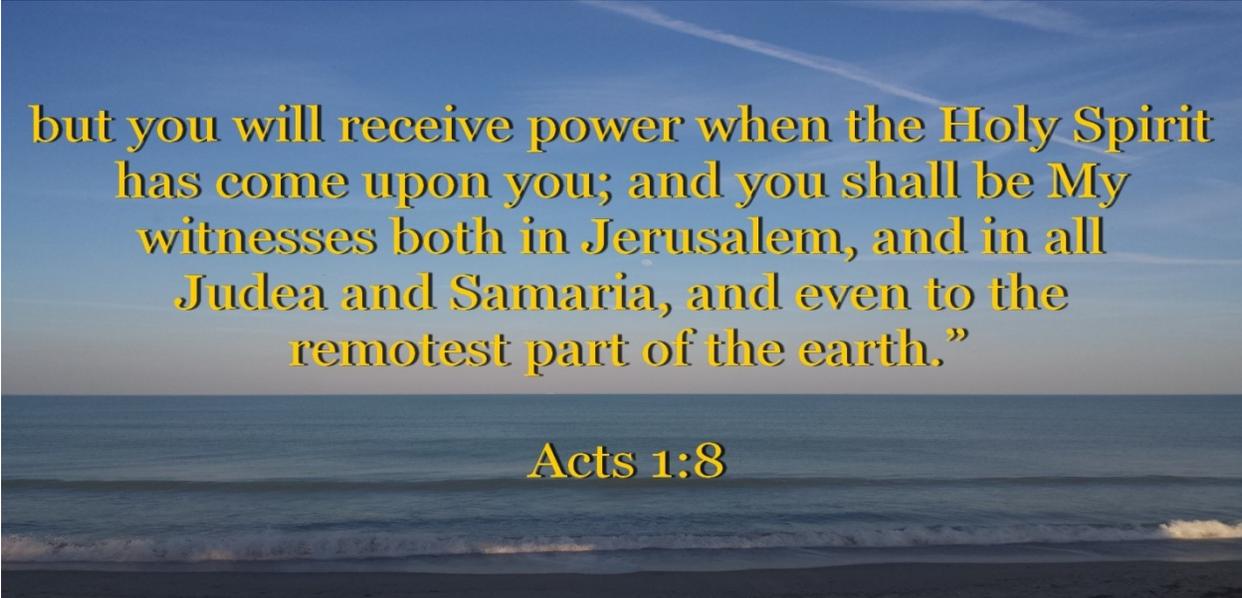
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting God to reveal the future to us as we need to know it. Will you live holy in the family of God today by following the plans God the father has established by His own authority?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 8

Power Today



but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

When did Jesus promise that the apostles would receive power? They would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them.

Jesus commanded the apostles to stay together. He intended that they would all be filled and baptized with the Holy Spirit as one body. The church would be born in that instant.

Jesus revealed that the apostles would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Jesus linked that power with the apostles being His witnesses. They were eyewitnesses of His death, burial and resurrection. They were about to become eyewitnesses of His ascension to heaven.

Jesus also outlined a geographical plan of church expansion. The church expands by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that unbelievers become saints by grace through faith. As the saints share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, they make disciples, teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded, and baptizing them in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The

apostles were commanded to start in Jerusalem and then Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

Witnesses

1. **You**. How long should the apostles remain together? Jesus commanded the twelve apostles to remain together until they received the power.

2. **Receive**. Jesus prophesied that they would receive the power, because He was sending the Holy Spirit to them after He ascended.

3. **Power**. Jesus also revealed that the apostles would have a new power in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

4. **Holy Spirit**. Jesus revealed that the Father would send the Holy Spirit in the Name of Jesus.

5. **Comes**. The Holy Spirit would come upon all the apostles gathered together in one place in Jerusalem.

6. **Witnesses**. The apostles not only functioned as eyewitnesses of the baptism, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, but they were also eyewitnesses of the Holy Spirit coming upon all of them at one time.

7. **Earth**. Jesus planned for His ministers to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the earth, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by becoming daily ministers for Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus gathered together His apostles so that they would be gathered together when the Holy Spirit came upon them.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by using your spiritual gifts in the power the Holy Spirit?

HALLELUJAH !

3

Ascension

Today

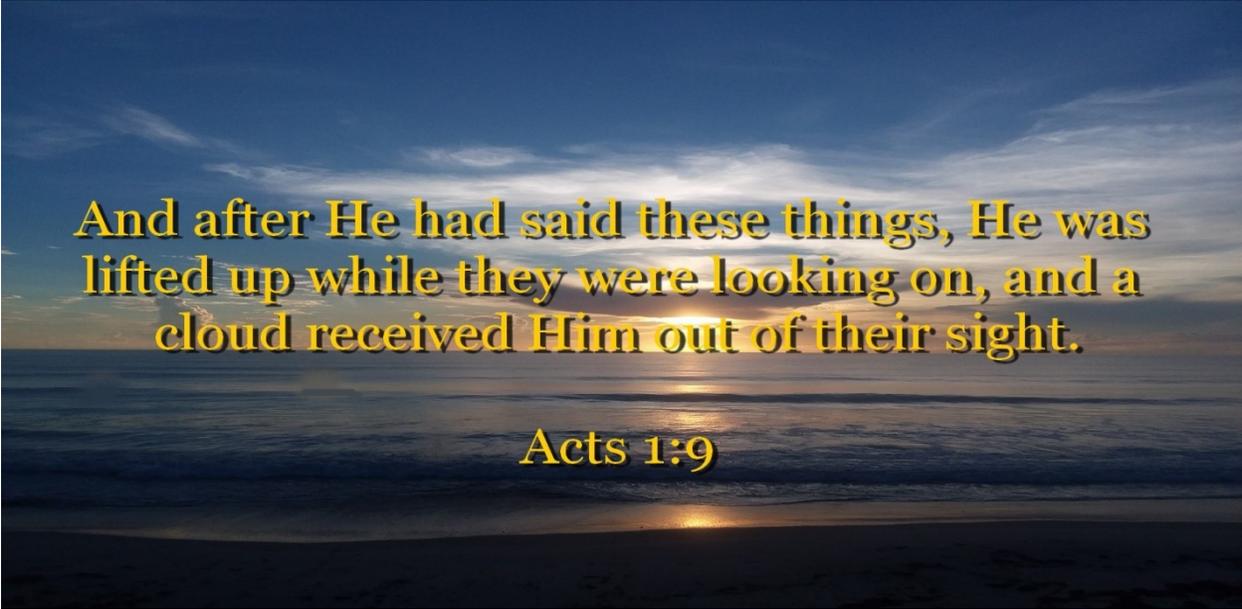
What happened after Jesus commanded His disciples to remain in Jerusalem until they received power from the Holy Spirit? Jesus was lifted up while they were looking on. A cloud received Him out of their sight. As they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going up, two men in white clothing stood beside the apostles.

The two men asked an extremely piercing question. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky?” They were obviously looking into the sky watching Jesus ascend into the clouds. The two men were making another point, namely, that the disciples should stop looking now that He has disappeared from view and follow His commands.

Specifically, Jesus was taken up into heaven, but He will come back in just the same way as they watched Him go into heaven. Therefore, the ascension not only took Jesus away to heaven, but it also provided a clear revelation that Jesus would be coming back to the same place He had left for heaven. The time had come for the apostles to wait in Jerusalem for the power the Holy Spirit to come upon them. They would not have to wait long.

Day 9

Lifted Up Today

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow that reflects on the water. The sky is a mix of blue and orange. The text is overlaid in a yellow, serif font.

And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Acts 1:9

What happened after Jesus said these things? Jesus was lifted up while the apostles were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Jesus commanded the apostles to remain together in Jerusalem until they received power to be His witnesses. The apostles together watched Jesus ascend to heaven. They had not yet received power from Jesus to be His witnesses, but that day was coming soon.

Jesus ascended to heaven after He first descended to earth. Jesus left the glorious splendor of heaven to take flesh and live among men. Ultimately, He gave His life for ours. He paid the death penalty we deserved. By faith in Him for salvation, we receive the free gift of eternal life.

Jesus ascended, leaving the disciples behind as one group. He commanded them to stay together until they received power to be His witnesses. Jesus had trained the apostles for about three years, and one of them was the son of destruction (Judas Iscariot).

Before ascending, Jesus had promised that the Father would send the Holy Spirit to the apostles. The Holy Spirit would empower the apostles for ministry in the Name of Jesus.

Cloud

1. **Said**. What did Jesus reveal before He ascended? Jesus revealed His plan for spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the entire world. After speaking those words, He ascended.

2. **Lifted Up**. Jesus was lifted up from the earth.

3. **Looking On**. The apostles were looking on as Jesus ascended. They were still together, so that they would be His witnesses.

4. **Cloud**. Jesus was received into a cloud. Jesus will return to the clouds for the resurrection of the saints, when they receive their glorified bodies.

5. **Received Him**. The cloud received Jesus.

6. **Out**. Living holy in the family of God means we know Jesus was resurrected and then ascended in the presence of the eleven apostles, because Judas Iscariot had died.

7. **Sight**. We rejoice today because Jesus ascended into the cloud and He will return to the clouds for the resurrection of the saints.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus ascended to the clouds.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus lives today and will return to the clouds very soon.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by looking forward to the day when Jesus will return to the clouds.**

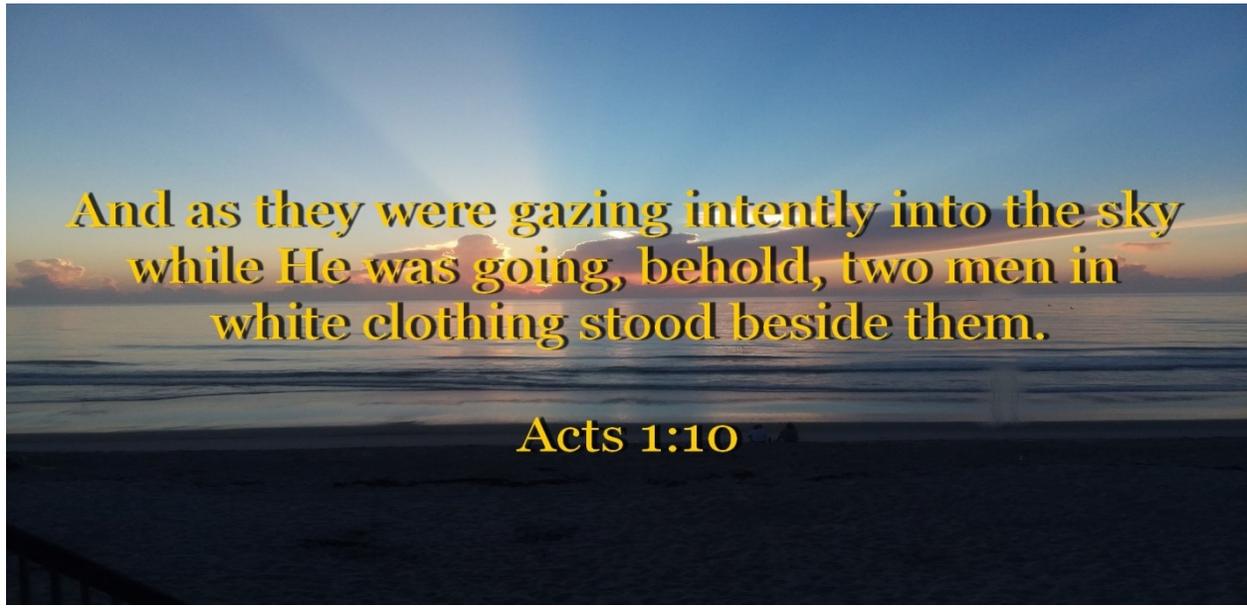
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the ascension of Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by looking forward to seeing Jesus?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 10

Sky Today



As the apostles gazed intently in the heavens, what happened? Two men stood beside them.

Jesus ascended into heaven and a cloud received Him as the apostles looked on. The apostles continued to gaze intently into heaven.

As the apostles gazed intently to heaven, two men in white clothing stood beside them. Those two men brought an important message for the apostles.

Jesus did not leave the apostles staring into the clouds. Two men appeared in white clothing and began speaking to them. God sent those two men to direct the apostles to the future.

As we will see, those two men focused the attention of the apostles upon the return of Jesus Christ in the future. We know that day remains future, although about two thousand years have already passed by. Yet, the promises of Jesus will never fail and His word will always come true.

Two Men

1. **They**. Who witnessed the ascension of Jesus? The eleven apostles were eyewitnesses to the ascension of Jesus Christ, just as He planned. Matthias was also present at the ascension.

2. **Gazing**. The apostles gazed intently into the heavens because they were watching the Lord Jesus Christ leave this earth with His glorified body.

3. **Sky**. They gazed into the sky even after Jesus was received into the cloud.

4. **Going**. While Jesus was going up, things were happening around the apostles. Jesus did not intend for them to wait for His return right there.

5. **Men**. Two men stood beside the eleven apostles as they were intently gazing into the sky.

6. **Clothing**. Living holy in the family of God means that we do not know much about those two men, but they were wearing white clothing and came with a message from Jesus.

7. **Beside**. We rejoice today because Jesus sent two men to stand beside the apostles, and they had a message from Jesus for the eleven apostles.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that we should not be gazing intently into the sky, but working for Jesus each day on earth.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus for coming to earth to be our Savior and then returning to heaven having accomplished the work the Father gave Him to do.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus and looking forward to His return.**

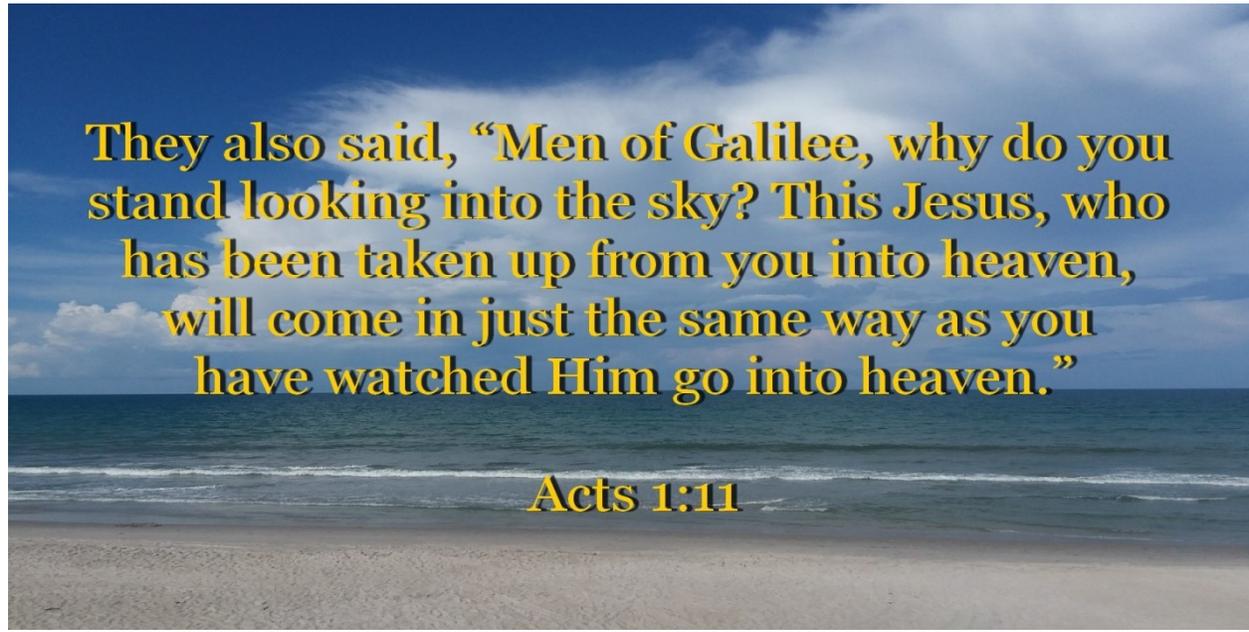
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus for sending two men to stand by the apostles. Will you live holy in the family of God today by working for Jesus until He returns?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 11

Looking Today



What did the two men say to the eleven apostles? The two men asked the apostles why they stood looking into the sky.

As Jesus ascended and the cloud received Him, the apostles were gazing intently into the sky. Two men clothed in white were standing with them and then spoke to them.

First, the two men asked why the apostles were looking into the sky. Because they were there with the apostles, they knew why the apostles were staring into the sky because Jesus had just ascended.

Second, the two men stated that Jesus had been taken up from you into heaven and that Jesus will come in just the same way as you watched Him go into heaven.

Jesus sent the two men to move the apostles forward. They no longer needed to stare into the sky. Notice that the two men did not promise the

apostles that they would see Jesus return. They only said that He would return in the same way as the apostles watched Him go into heaven.

Into Heaven

1. **Men**. How did the two men address the apostles? The two men called the apostles “men of Galilee.”

2. **Why**. The two men asked a very pertinent question starting with the word why. They focused the apostles’ attention upon the reason they were standing looking into the sky.

3. **Looking**. The apostles were looking into the sky pondering what they had seen and what would happen next.

4. **Jesus**. Jesus had just ascended, but the eleven did not know when He would return.

5. **Heaven**. They knew He had gone up to heaven, and they knew they should remain in Jerusalem until they received power to be His witnesses.

6. **Same**. Living holy in the family of God means that the same Jesus Who ascended to heaven will come back in just the same way that He went to heaven.

7. **Watched**. We rejoice today because the eleven apostles watched Jesus going to heaven and so provided eyewitness testimony of the ascension of Jesus Christ and the promise that He would return in the same way.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the ascension of Jesus and the two men who stood with the eleven disciples.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by asking ourselves why we are doing things.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus for His promise to return in just the same way that He ascended to heaven.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by looking for Jesus to return in the same way that He ascended. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking Jesus for His promise to return to earth?

HALLELUJAH !

4

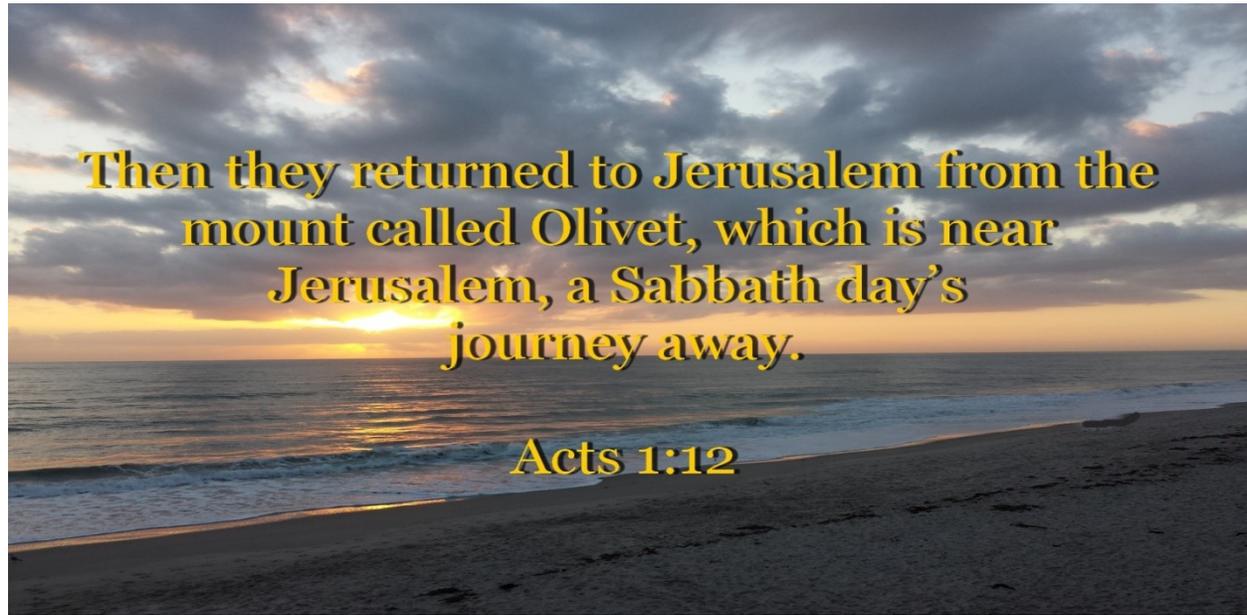
Upper Room Today

As the saints met in an upper room in Jerusalem, Peter explained that the need to replace Judas Iscariot. Peter quoted the Old Testament about Judas losing both his office and his ministry. After careful prayer and consideration of the qualifications necessary, the Lord selected a man named Matthias to serve as an apostle. Judas Iscariot had held the office of apostle, but he died a broken man destined for eternal punishment for his unbelief in Jesus. The Lord chose Matthias to fill the ministry and apostleship of Judas Iscariot. Matthias had been with the other apostles and with Jesus since the baptism of John and through the ascension of Jesus. He was an eyewitness of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 12

Returned Today



After Jesus ascended, where did the eleven apostles go? They went back to Jerusalem from Mount Olivet.

Mount Olivet lies about a Sabbath day's journey away from Jerusalem. Jesus had commanded the apostles to remain together in Jerusalem until they received power to be His witnesses.

Having watched Jesus ascend to heaven, two men stood next to the eleven apostles and asked them why they were gazing into the sky. The apostles then returned to Jerusalem to wait for the power Jesus described.

Jesus had prophesied that the Father would send the Holy Spirit in the Name of Jesus. Therefore, the apostles were waiting for the Holy Spirit to come upon them so that they could begin the program of witnessing about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations.

The program Jesus described had a geographical component. The apostles were to remain in Jerusalem, and then starting from there, to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth.

Jerusalem

1. **They**. How did the apostles fulfill the command of Jesus to remain together? After the Ascension they remained together by returning to Jerusalem from Mount Olivet.

2. **Returned**. The apostles returned to Jerusalem and stayed there, just as Jesus had commanded them to do.

3. **Jerusalem**. Jerusalem plays a key role in the entire program of God. Jesus was crucified there and Jesus will baptize the apostles with the Holy Spirit there.

4. **Olivet**. Mount Olivet also plays a key role in the program of God, because Jesus ascended from Mount Olivet and will return with many thousands of His angels to Mount Olivet.

5. **Near**. Mount Olivet lies near Jerusalem, about a Sabbath day's journey, about two thirds of a mile.

6. **Journey**. Living holy in the family of God means that the apostles did not have to journey far to keep the command of Christ to stay together until they had received the power to be witnesses of Jesus Christ.

7. **Waiting**. We rejoice today because the apostles were waiting for the Holy Spirit to bring them power to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world, including us today.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the commands of Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for the obedience of the apostles by waiting in Jerusalem.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that sometimes God wants us to wait now so that we can travel later.**

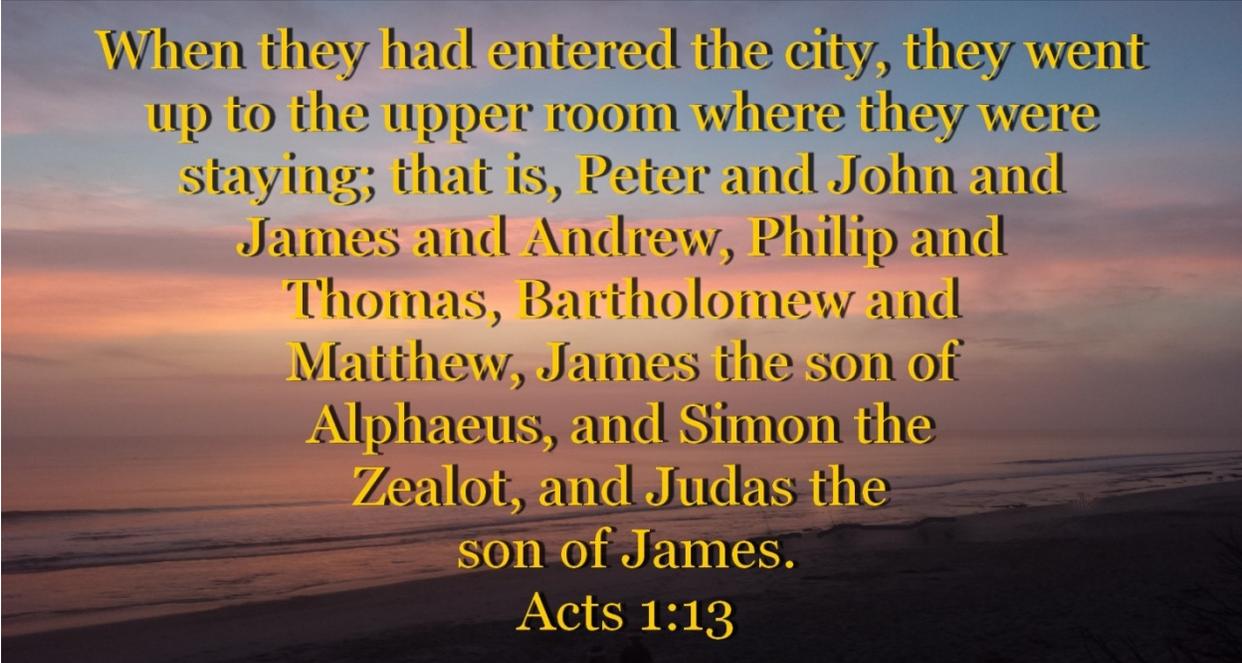
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by obeying the commands of God, even if they mean waiting in one place. Will you live holy in the family of God today by obeying Jesus by going where He tells you to go and staying there until He tells you to leave?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 13

Upper Room Today



When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James.

Acts 1:13

Where were the apostles staying in Jerusalem? They were staying in the upper room together as one group.

Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James all stayed together.

Jesus had commanded them to stay together until the Holy Spirit empowered them to be His witnesses. Jesus indicated it would not be many days before they received that power from the Holy Spirit.

James and John were brothers, the sons of Zebedee. Andrew and Peter were also brothers. They were all fishermen when Jesus met them, and James and John left Zebedee in the boat mending nets when they left to follow Jesus. Simon was a Zealot, a party opposed to Roman rule and later favored rebellion.

Staying

1. **When**. What happened when the apostles entered Jerusalem? They went as one group to the place they were staying in Jerusalem.

2. **City**. Jesus had a very soft spot in His heart for Jerusalem. David set up his throne there and his son, Solomon, built the Temple of God there.

3. **Upper Room**. Just as Jesus spent time in an upper room with the apostles on the night before His crucifixion, so also the apostles gathered together in an upper room after His ascension.

4. **Staying**. The apostles had been staying in that upper room for some period of time before the ascension.

5. **Peter**. Peter's name often appears first in the list of disciples, but he was a notorious sinner and held no primacy among the apostles.

6. **James and John**. Living holy in the family of God means Jesus chose fishermen like James and John to become apostles and eyewitnesses of the life, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus.

7. **Andrew and Peter**. We rejoice today because people thought they could approach Andrew and Andrew went and told Peter, his brother, and together they went and told Jesus. Jesus loved brothers who worked together in ministry.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the plans of Jesus to continue His ministry through His apostles empowered by the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by living our lives as God's chosen ministers to follow in the way of the apostles, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by staying united as one team following the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, filled with brothers, sisters, fathers, and mothers, from all over the world.**

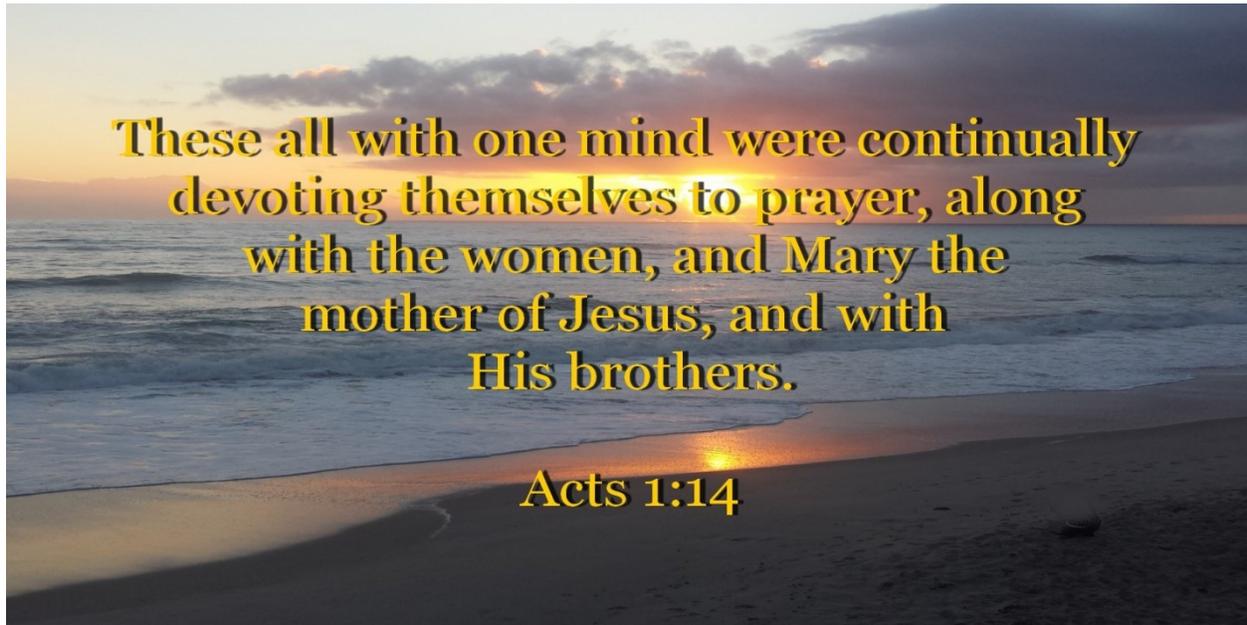
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by staying united in one purpose to serve Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. Will you live holy in the family of God today by looking forward to the return of Jesus as you stay united with the family of God, pursuing daily ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 14

One Mind Today



What became of Mary and the brothers of Jesus? They were continually devoting themselves to prayer along with the apostles.

Before Jesus was crucified, His brothers encouraged him to go up to Jerusalem where the Jews sought to kill him. At that time, His own brothers did not believe in Him. After His ascension they were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the apostles and their mother.

Notice that the apostles were of one mind. They were following the command of Jesus to stay in Jerusalem and they were waiting for the Holy Spirit to empower them for ministry as witnesses of Jesus Christ. While they were waiting, they were devoting themselves to prayer, along with others.

When it comes to our physical family members, we should never give up on them coming to salvation. Remember the brothers of the Lord Jesus who grew up with Him, but did not believe in Him for salvation. Yet, after His ascension, they were praying with other believers, including the apostles. In fact, James, the brother of Jesus, would play a leading role in the early

church. He received the spiritual gift of apostle, but never held the office of apostle.

Devoting

1. **All**. Were the apostles unified? All the apostles shared one mind. They all received the command together to stay together in Jerusalem.

2. **One Mind**. All the apostles had a common purpose, waiting obediently in Jerusalem for the fulfillment of the prophecy of Jesus.

3. **Continually**. As the apostles waited, they joined with others, continually praying.

4. **Devoting**. The apostles devoted themselves to prayer, so that they would be ready to fulfill the prophecy of Jesus.

5. **Prayer**. Just because Jesus ascended to heaven in His glorified body does not mean that He was absent from the apostles. Jesus promised He would not leave them or forsake them, and so He remained with them spiritually.

6. **Women**. Living holy in the family of God means both men and women, mothers and brothers, all prayed together waiting for the fulfillment of the prophecy of Jesus.

7. **Mary and His Brothers**. We rejoice today because Mary and the brothers of Jesus joined the apostles and the women in constant prayer and so set the perfect example for us praying together as we await the fulfillment of the prophecy of Jesus concerning His return to Mount Olivet.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by continually devoting ourselves to prayer.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by joining with others in the family of God in prayer as we await the fulfillment of the plans of Jesus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the apostles and the mother and brothers of Jesus, along with the women, devoting themselves to prayer as they awaited the fulfillment of the prophecy of Jesus.**

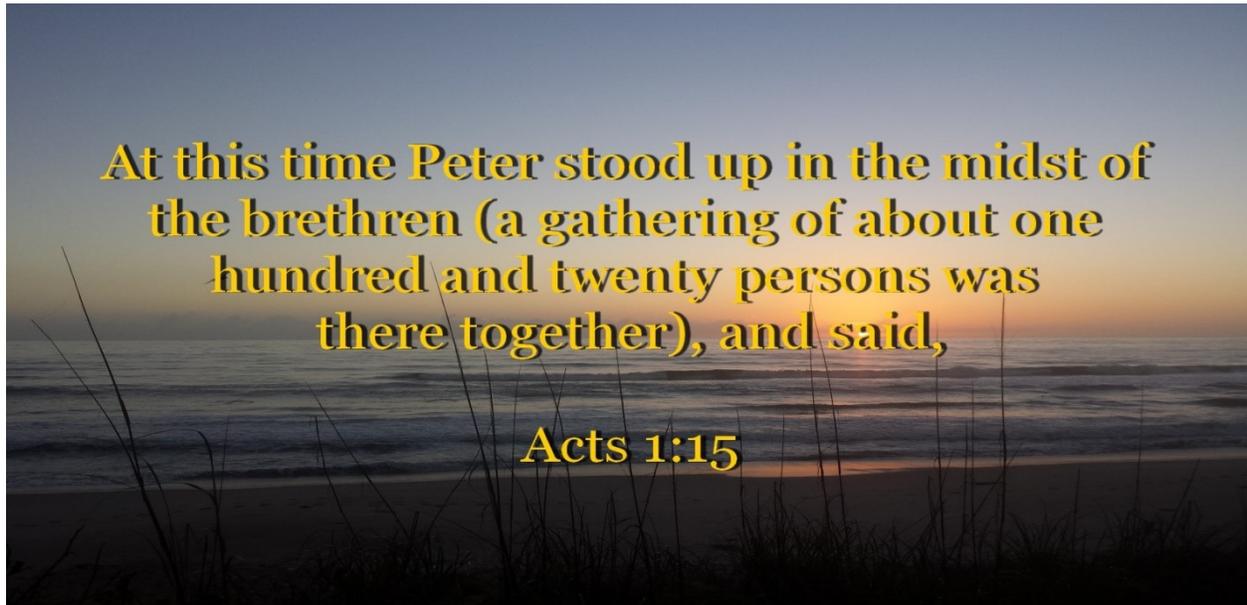
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by continually devoting ourselves to prayer. Will you live holy in the family of God today by joining with other saints, both men and women, and praying for the fulfillment of the plans of Jesus for your life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 15

Peter Today



How many people were gathered together for prayer and waiting for the fulfillment of the prophecy of Jesus? About one hundred twenty people were gathered together and praying.

Peter stood up among the people. Peter often spoke out about things on his mind. At times Peter said things, but the Lord Jesus rebuked him. Peter also walked on water, but then fell into the water through unbelief. Just like us, he had good times and bad times.

Jesus promised Peter and the other apostles that things would be very different when the Holy Spirit came upon them. The Holy Spirit would provide power to be the witnesses of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon the apostles, but that day was arriving shortly. They would be changed forever by the power the Holy Spirit.

Peter serves as a good example of the apostles before the Holy Spirit indwelt them. Peter certainly sinned notoriously after he was filled with the

Holy Spirit, but he also served the Lord Jesus Christ in the power the Holy Spirit.

One Hundred and Twenty

1. **Time**. What turn the sorrow of the apostles into joy? The apostles had gone through a period of sorrow after the crucifixion of Jesus, but their sorrow was turned into joy when they saw Him in His resurrected body. After Jesus ascended, He told His disciples to wait not many days until they were empowered by the Holy Spirit.

2. **Peter**. Peter stood up in the gathering and began to speak. Peter often spoke to Jesus face-to-face, but now he spoke in the group gathered together in the Name of Jesus.

3. **Midst**. Apparently, Peter was sitting right in the midst of the people, not on top of some podium or platform.

4. **Brethren**. Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren, a group that included the apostles and brothers of Jesus, along with many other people.

5. **Gathering**. The group gathered together to devote themselves continually to prayer.

6. **One Hundred Twenty**. Living holy in the family of God means we remember one hundred twenty people had one purpose of waiting for the prophecy of Jesus to be fulfilled.

7. **Together**. We rejoice today because believers encourage one another as they gather together in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and devote themselves to prayer.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by continually devoting ourselves to prayer as one group of both men and women.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by finding strength in numbers gathered in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by making time to devote ourselves to prayer with other believers in the family of God.**

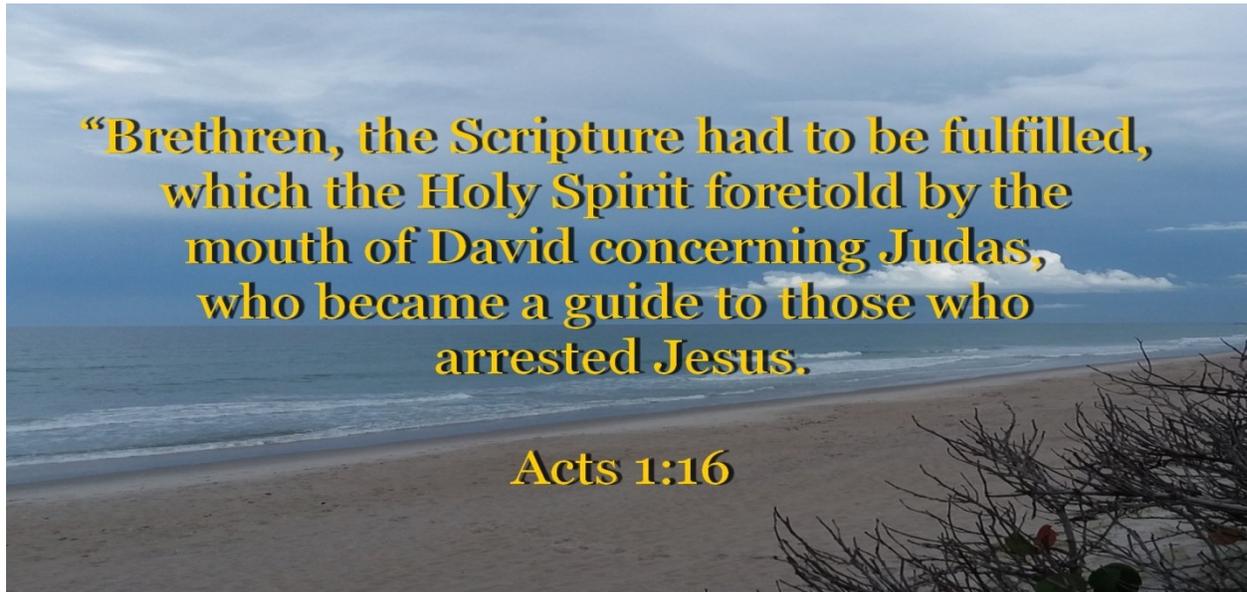
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by gathering together with other believers for the purpose of prayer. Will you live holy in the family of God today by making time to pray with groups of other believers?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 16

Scripture Today



What did Peter say regarding the Scripture? Peter said that the Psalmist’s prophecy must be fulfilled.

Peter addressed the hundred and twenty gathered with them. He addressed them as brethren. He proclaimed that the Scripture had to be fulfilled. The Holy Spirit had spoken by the mouth of David long beforehand about Judas.

Peter cited the psalmist to show that Judas became a guide to those people who arrested Jesus and so must pay the price. The audience understood what Peter was saying about Judas. Yet, the night before the crucifixion at the last supper, none of the disciples suspected that Judas was the betrayer of Jesus.

Jesus knew that Judas was the son of destruction even before Jesus chose him to be one of His apostles. Every day that Judas traveled with the apostles, Jesus knew that Judas would be the guide of the people who arrested Jesus. Jesus identified Judas to the eleven apostles at the last supper, but they did not seem to understand the intentions of Judas.

Holy Spirit

1. **Brethren**. Where was Peter standing? Peter sat among the brethren and so stood in their midst to address them.

2. **Scripture**. Peter considered the Psalms to be part of holy and inspired Scripture.

3. **Fulfilled**. Peter also understood that the Holy Spirit foretold the betrayal by Judas.

4. **Holy Spirit**. The Holy Spirit moved men to speak for God, just as the psalmist spoke under inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

5. **David**. The Holy Spirit spoke through the mouth of David concerning Judas.

6. **Judas**. Living holy in the family of God means that we thank God that He knows every betrayer, even the ones who walk among the saints every day.

7. **Guide**. We rejoice today because Jesus knew all about Judas being a betrayer of God to the people who arrested Jesus, but Jesus was not frustrated by such actions even for a moment because His sovereign plans took all matters into account from eternity past.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by counting upon God to fulfill every word of Scripture at the proper time.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that He opens our minds to understand how the Scriptures are fulfilled.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by looking to the Scriptures to interpret and understand the events happening around us.**

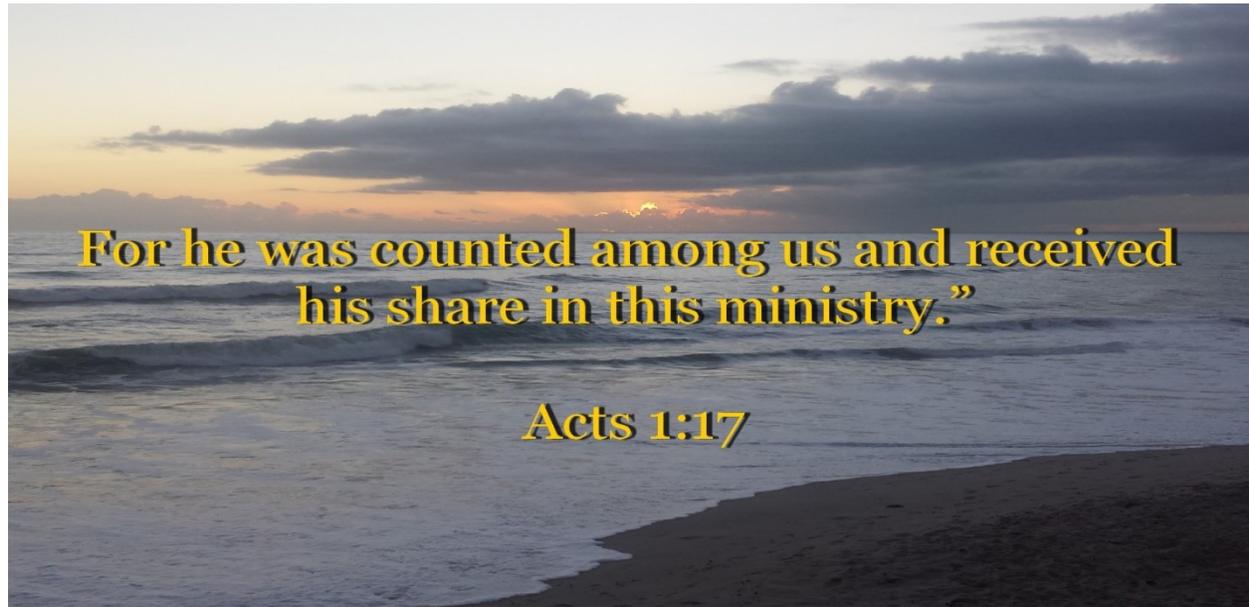
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the truthful precision of the Scriptures. Will you live holy in the family of God today by learning the Scriptures and how they help us each day to glorify God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 17

Among Us Today



What ministry did Judas share with the apostles? Judas shared the ministry of being an apostle of Jesus Christ, chosen by Him.

As Peter addressed the group, he first applied the Scriptures to Judas. David wrote in the Psalms about Judas being a guide to those people who arrested Jesus. Peter then described Judas as someone who was counted among the apostles and received his share in this ministry.

Judas held the office of apostle. Even an unbeliever could hold the office of apostle, because Judas was an unbeliever. Judas pretended very well, because the other apostles did not suspect that he was counterfeit.

When Peter addressed the group after the ascension of Jesus, Peter's eyes were opened to the true identity of Judas. The time had come to find a replacement for Judas.

Ministry

1. **Counted**. Was Judas counted as an apostle? Peter said that Judas was counted among the apostles.
2. **Us**. Peter meant that he was one of us, one of the twelve that joined Jesus in ministry at His invitation.
3. **Received**. As one of the twelve, Judas received his share in the ministry. Peter did not elaborate upon what that share consisted of.
4. **Share**. We know that Judas pilfered money from the moneybox, because he was the treasurer and had access to the money.
5. **Ministry**. The term for ministry includes the idea of service. The apostles served Jesus and others by performing their ministry.
6. **Office**. Living holy in the family of God means that we understand the difference between the office of apostle and the spiritual gift of apostle. Unbelievers (like Judas) could hold the office of apostle, but only believers received The Spiritual Gift of Apostle from the Holy Spirit.
7. **Chosen**. We rejoice today because Jesus always knew the difference between Judas and the other apostles. Jesus was not taken by surprise when Judas betrayed Him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that imposters like Judas stand among us today.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by counting upon Jesus to fulfill His plans no matter who opposes Him or betrays Him.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting Jesus to deal with all imposters and betrayers who stand among us and minister in the Name of Jesus.**

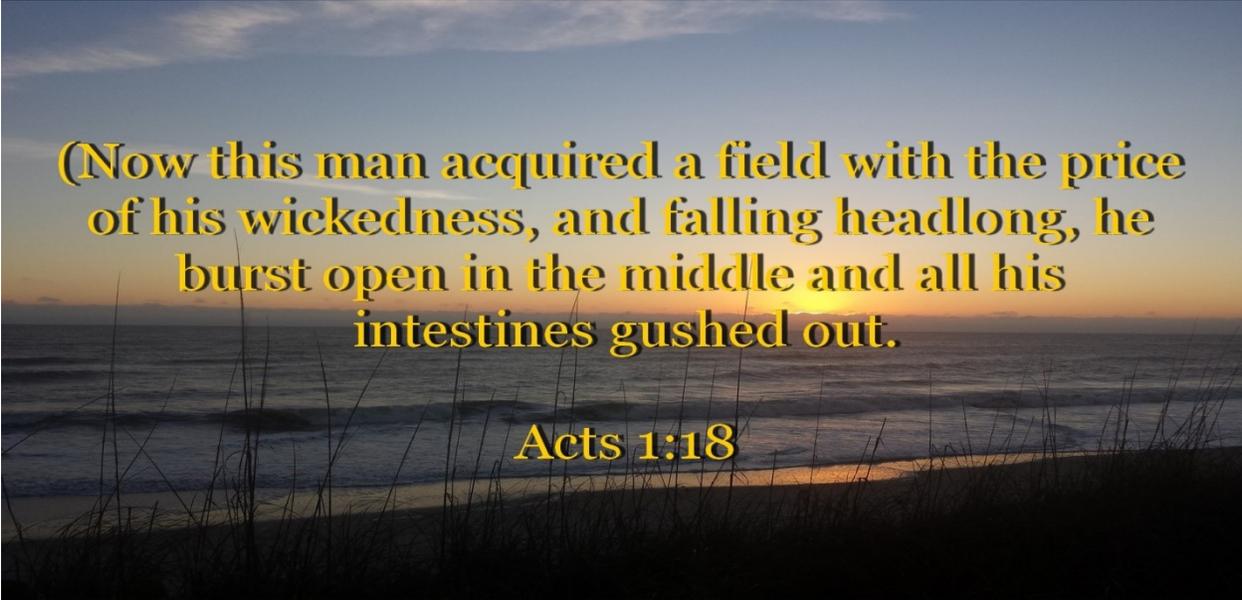
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting the omniscience of Jesus Who truly knows everything about everyone. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that not everybody who ministers in the Name of Jesus has been born again?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 18

Price Today



(Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out.

Acts 1:18

What did Judas do with the price of his wickedness in betraying Jesus? Judas bought a field.

Judas struck a deal with the religious Council to betray Jesus with a kiss. That Council sent out officers to arrest Jesus and Judas identified him with a kiss as planned. The Council paid Judas thirty pieces of silver. Judas acquired a field for the price of his wickedness.

Jesus referred to Judas as the son of destruction. Jesus knew all along who Judas was and what Judas was going to do. Even so, Jesus chose him to be one of the twelve apostles.

Luke described the body of Judas as falling headlong. He burst open in the middle, and his intestines poured out. From long ago destruction awaited Judas Iscariot. He will be remembered as the man who betrayed Jesus with a kiss. Judas had left his ministry as an apostle of Jesus Christ.

During the last supper with Jesus, the devil had already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus identified

Judas as His betrayer by handing Judas a morsel at that dinner. Having received the morsel, the devil then entered into Judas. Jesus then told the devil: “What you do, do quickly.”

Wickedness

1. **Man**. How did Judas betray Jesus? Judas was unlike any man in that he betrayed the Lord Jesus with a kiss.
2. **Field**. Judas acquired a field as the price of his wickedness.
3. **Price**. Judas also received thirty pieces of silver as payment for the betrayal.
4. **Wickedness**. God described the payment to Judas as the price of wickedness.
5. **Headlong**. Having acquired the field, Judas apparently hung himself there. Having died from hanging, he fell headlong, and his middle burst open.
6. **Intestines**. Living holy in the family of God means betraying God like Judas caused him to die with his intestines spilled out as stark testimony to the rewards of wickedness which creates an internal debt.
7. **Gushed Out**. We rejoice today because the righteous judgment of God fell upon Judas for his wickedness and the price he paid included his intestines gushing out, fulfilling Scripture and testifying to the judgment of God and His absolute holiness.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the price of wickedness Judas received.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God holds everyone accountable for their sins, except that Jesus paid the death penalty for us who believe in His Name for salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering Judas and his terrible end on earth only to be followed by eternal destruction in the Lake of Fire for rejecting Jesus as Savior and betraying Him.**

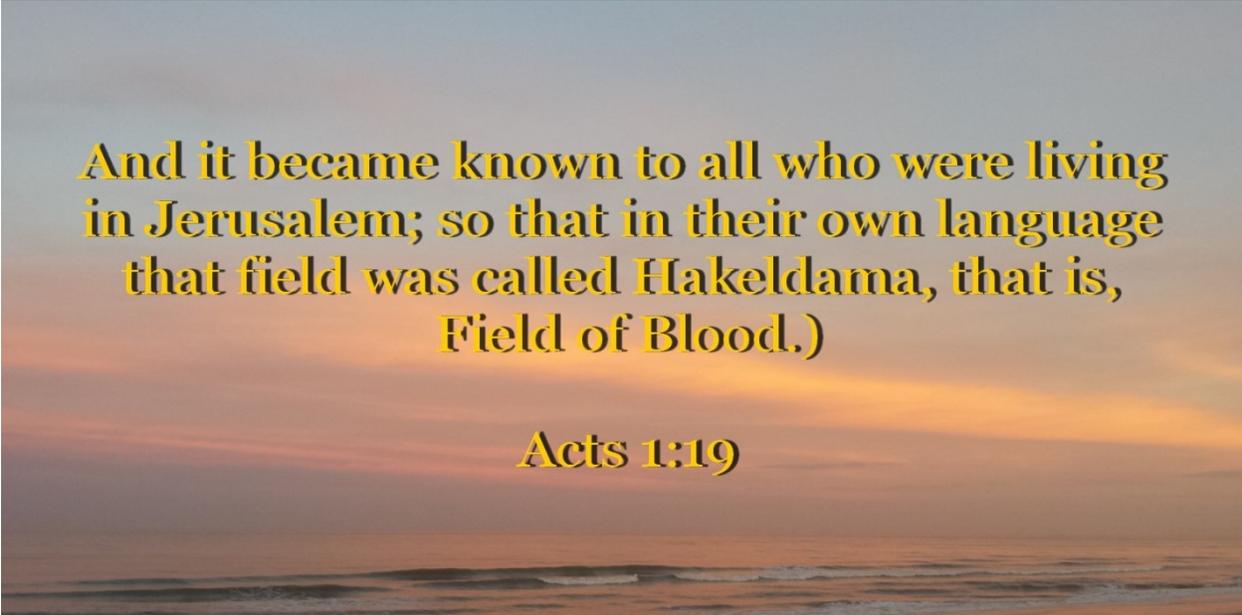
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by considering the judgment of God falling upon Judas for betrayed Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by learning from the example of Judas about the price you pay for the price of wickedness you receive?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 19

Known Today



And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

Acts 1:19

What was Hakeldama? Hakeldama was the field of blood.

The people living in Jerusalem remembered what happened with Judas in that field. Judas betrayed Jesus and received the price of wickedness for his actions.

Judas serves as a very powerful example of seeking temporary gain while ignoring the long-term consequences of wickedness. Judas acquired a field for the price of wickedness, but he died in the field leaving a terrible spectacle behind.

Judas received blood money and he also acquired a field as the price of wickedness. When people like Judas betray Jesus in one way or another, their own wickedness will catch up to them one day, and they will stand before Jesus for judgment.

Field of Blood

1. **Known**. After Judas died, what stuck in the mind of the people of Jerusalem? The people in Jerusalem remembered all the things that happened with Judas and Jesus.

2. **All**. Luke wrote that all the people living in Jerusalem heard about all the things about Judas and his death.

3. **Jerusalem**. Just as Judas betrayed Jesus in Jerusalem, so also Judas died and created memories of his evil with everybody in the city.

4. **Field**. The text is very specific that Judas acquired a field with the price of his wickedness. Judas received thirty pieces of silver as payment for his betrayal, but threw that money into the Temple treasury. Therefore, Judas acquired the field as non-monetary payment in addition to the thirty pieces of silver.

5. **Hakeldama**. The inhabitants of Jerusalem spoke Aramaic and so gave the field where Jesus Judas died the name Hakeldama.

6. **Field of Blood**. Living holy in the family of God means that Hakeldama, known as the field of blood, became a testament to the price of wickedness in betraying Jesus.

7. **Judas**. We rejoice today because Jesus triumphed over the betrayal of Judas and Jesus paid with His blood the price for our wickedness so that by faith in Him we may be saved from the penalty we all deserve.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Hakeldama, the field of blood.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God uses a field to commemorate the bloody price of wickedness.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding the far-reaching plans of God that do not promote evil, even when the devil caused Judas to betray Jesus to death, but that death resulted in our salvation.**

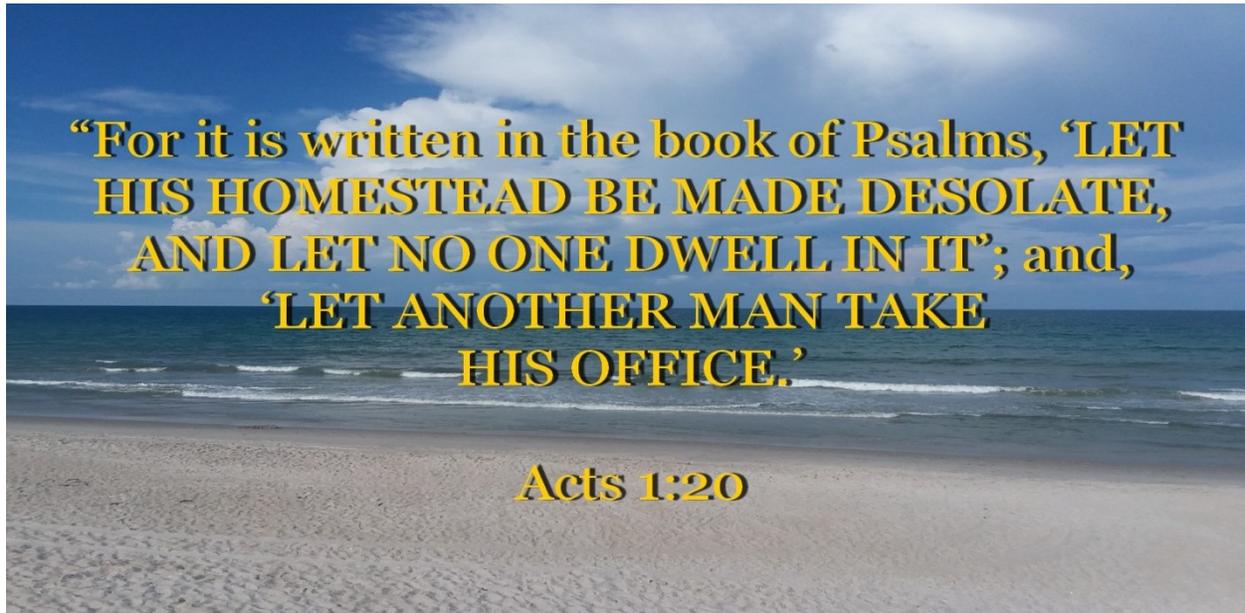
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Hakeldama. Will you live holy in the family of God today by learning from the example of Judas about the price of wickedness in the field of blood?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 20

Written Today



What happened to the homestead of Judas? The psalmist prophesied that the homestead of Judas would be made desolate.

The wickedness of Judas had far-ranging consequences. When he turned away from the ministry and the apostleship Jesus gave to him, many bad things happened.

His homestead would be made desolate, like an empty wilderness. No one would dwell in it. It would be uninhabitable. The emptiness of his homestead symbolized his notorious evil and betraying Jesus.

Judas also held the office of apostle. He was with Jesus from His baptism until Judas hung himself and died. Once appointed to the office of apostle, a man holds that office until his death. The psalmist prophesied that another man would take his office of apostle. The office of apostle required twelve men to be appointed as witnesses of Jesus to all the world.

Desolate

1. **Psalms**. What did the psalmist say about Judas? The psalmist prophesied about the utter destruction of Judas and his property.

2. **Homestead**. The psalmist prophesied that the homestead of Judas would be made desolate.

3. **Desolate**. Desolate means that this homestead became like a wilderness.

4. **No One**. The psalmist also declared that no one would live in the homestead of Judas.

5. **Dwell**. Judas not only lost his life, but he also lost his homestead so that no one would dwell in it after he died.

6. **Another**. Living holy in the family of God means that God planned for only twelve men to hold the office of apostle. Therefore, upon the death of Judas, another man had to be selected to hold the office of apostle.

7. **Office**. We rejoice today because Jesus created the office of apostle so that twelve men would provide eyewitness testimony to His life, crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and continued life thereafter as Savior of the world, coming King, Apostle, and Eternal Priest.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the effects of wickedness continue even after death.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Judas left his office of apostle.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by enjoying Jesus and His great plans for all His disciples to continue His ministry even after the office of apostle passed away.**

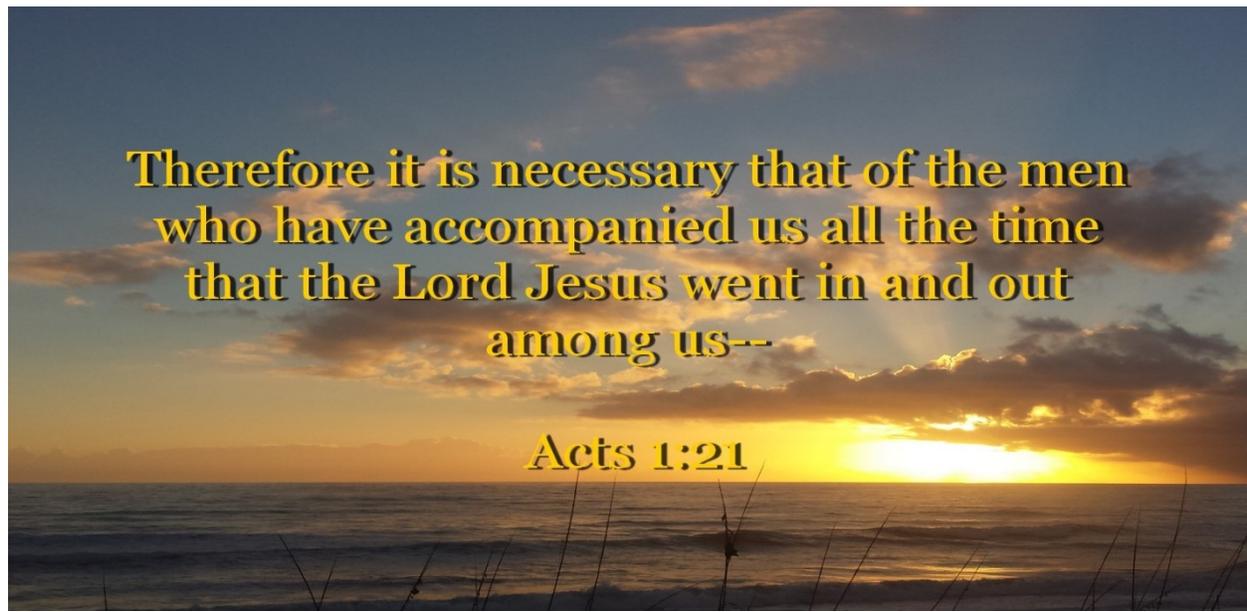
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for his sovereign plans to punish wickedness and promote righteousness. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the desolation of the homestead of Judas and the terrible consequences of wickedness?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 21

Necessary Today



How many men could hold the office of apostle? Twelve and only twelve.

When Judas went his own way and betrayed the Lord Jesus, his death created a vacancy in the number of men chosen by Jesus to hold the office of apostle. Please keep in mind that the spiritual gift of apostle could be held by many people, not just twelve.

Peter first explained what happened with Judas and how he fulfilled the prophecy from the psalmist. Peter also explained the long-term consequences for Judas and his house.

Peter then addressed the issue of filling the vacancy in the office of apostle left by Judas. The first requirement was that the candidate must have accompanied us all of the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us.

The office of apostle could only be held by a man who had accompanied the other apostles throughout the time that Jesus went in and out among

them. Therefore, we know that the office of apostle could not be held by anyone today who could not fulfill that requirement. Please keep in mind that Jesus holds the office of apostle to this day.

Accompanied Us

1. **Necessary**. What necessity did Peter describe? Peter described the necessity of replacing Judas as a man who held the office of apostle and would be an eyewitness for Jesus.

2. **Men**. Only men held the office of apostle.

3. **Accompanied**. Notice that the apostles accompanied Jesus and they knew other men who also accompanied Jesus, but were not numbered among the chosen to hold the office of apostle.

4. **Time**. The other candidates to fill the office of apostle vacated by Judas had to have been with the other apostles all the time.

5. **Lord Jesus**. The other candidates also had to have been with Jesus from the beginning until His ascension.

6. **In and Out**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Jesus went in and out among the apostles who accompanied Him, indicating that He left them alone at times and sent them out to minister for Him.

7. **Among**. We rejoice today because Jesus lived among the apostles and He lives among the saints today, indwelling us spiritually.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the office of apostle and the men who held that office.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that the office of apostle has passed away, but the spiritual gift of apostle remains.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus the Apostle sent from God the Father to redeem us and save us from the death penalty.**

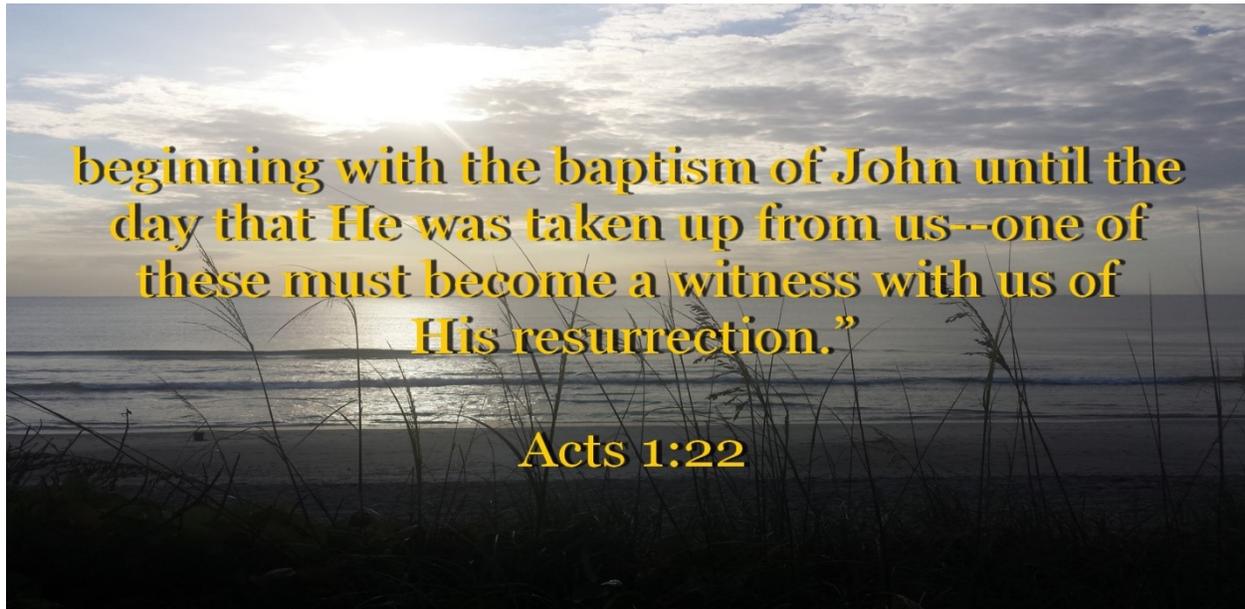
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding the requirements to hold the office of apostle. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the men who held the office of apostle and their testimony for Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 22

Beginning Today



What time frame applied to finding the replacement for Judas? The time frame began with the baptism of John until the ascension.

Peter indicated that Judas had left his office of apostle and a replacement must be found. As the apostles considered a replacement, they established certain criteria. One criterion included a time requirement. Specifically, the candidate to replace Judas must have been with the other apostles beginning with the baptism of John until the ascension of Jesus.

Because of that timeframe, we know that no one can hold the office of apostle today, except Jesus. No one alive today was with the apostles from the baptism of John until the ascension. Therefore, the office of apostle no longer applies, except for Jesus. The spiritual gift of apostle remains separate and distinct from the office of apostle.

The replacement for Judas was not randomly chosen. The candidate had to meet very specific requirements established by God.

Witness

1. **Beginning**. What was the starting point for being with the apostles so that you could be considered a candidate to fill the office of apostle left open by the death of Judas? The starting point began with the baptism of John.

2. **Baptism**. The baptism of John requirement indicates that the apostles were familiar with John the Baptist and they were present when John was baptizing people and Jesus was with them.

3. **Day**. Another time point concerned the day Jesus left earth and returned to heaven.

4. **Taken**. The ascension of Jesus refers to the day He was taken up to the clouds and returned to heaven in the presence of the apostles.

5. **Us**. The word 'us' indicates that all the apostles were present at the ascension of Jesus.

6. **Witness**. Living holy in the family of God means that we rely upon the eyewitness testimony of the apostles concerning Jesus and His ministry in the flesh.

7. **Resurrection**. We rejoice today because the resurrection of Jesus provides absolute proof that Jesus died according to the Scriptures and was raised according to the Scriptures.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the criteria God established to select the successor to Judas with the office of apostle.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for His plans to raise up eyewitnesses to testify about Jesus after His ascension.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by forming ministry teams to bear testimony to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His great love for all people.**

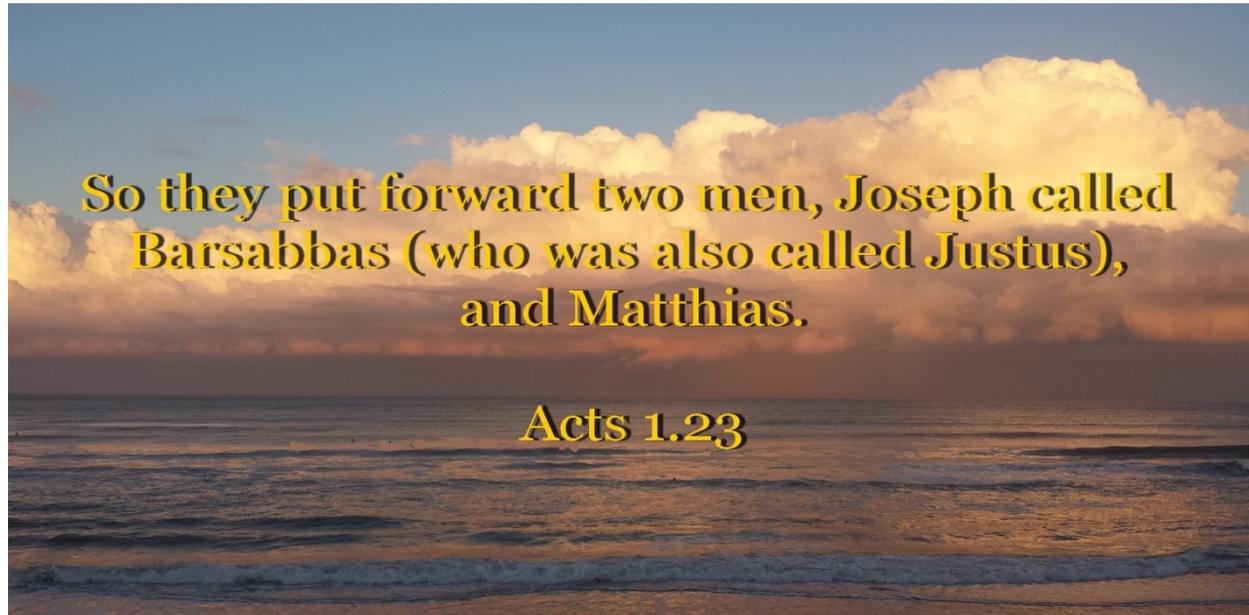
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus who raised up eyewitnesses and served in the office of apostle after He ascended. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that the apostles were the foundation of the church, with Jesus serving as the Cornerstone?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 23

Matthias Today



Who did the apostles put forward? The apostles put forward two men to fill the ministry and apostleship vacated by Judas.

The apostles relied upon God to know the hearts of both men. The office of apostle required twelve men to hold the office. Therefore, eleven apostles were too few and thirteen apostles were too many.

Joseph and Matthias met the criteria of being with the other apostles from the baptism of John to the ascension of Jesus. Therefore, based on those criteria, no one alive today can meet those qualifications and the office of apostle has no earthly members.

The apostles were critical to the New Testament church as foundation stones, with Christ being the Cornerstone. The New Testament mysteries were revealed through the apostles and prophets.

Jesus described the prime ministry of the apostles as being eyewitnesses of His ministry and resurrection. They were to go into all the

world making disciples, teaching all that He commanded them and baptizing.

Joseph

1. **Put.** Why did the apostles put forward Joseph and Matthias? The apostles put forward to men, Joseph and Matthias, before the Lord because they met the initial criteria to be candidates to fill the ministry and office of apostle left behind by Judas.

2. **Forward.** The apostles looked to the Lord for a decision on which of the two men to choose.

3. **Two.** Two men, Joseph and Matthias, met the criteria to hold the apostleship.

4. **Men.** The twelve apostles were all males.

5. **Joseph.** Joseph certainly was a faithful man because he was well known to the apostles because he was with them from the baptism of John to the ascension of Jesus.

6. **Matthias.** Living holy in the family of God means that God chose Matthias to fill the apostleship in the ministry vacated by Judas.

7. **Apostles.** We rejoice today because the apostles fulfilled their ministry and apostleship and began to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the world, making disciples as they went.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by putting forward difficult choices before the Lord.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting the Lord to make decisions regarding leadership in the church today.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by applying biblical criteria to produce candidates for ministries and offices, but then letting the Lord make the final decisions.**

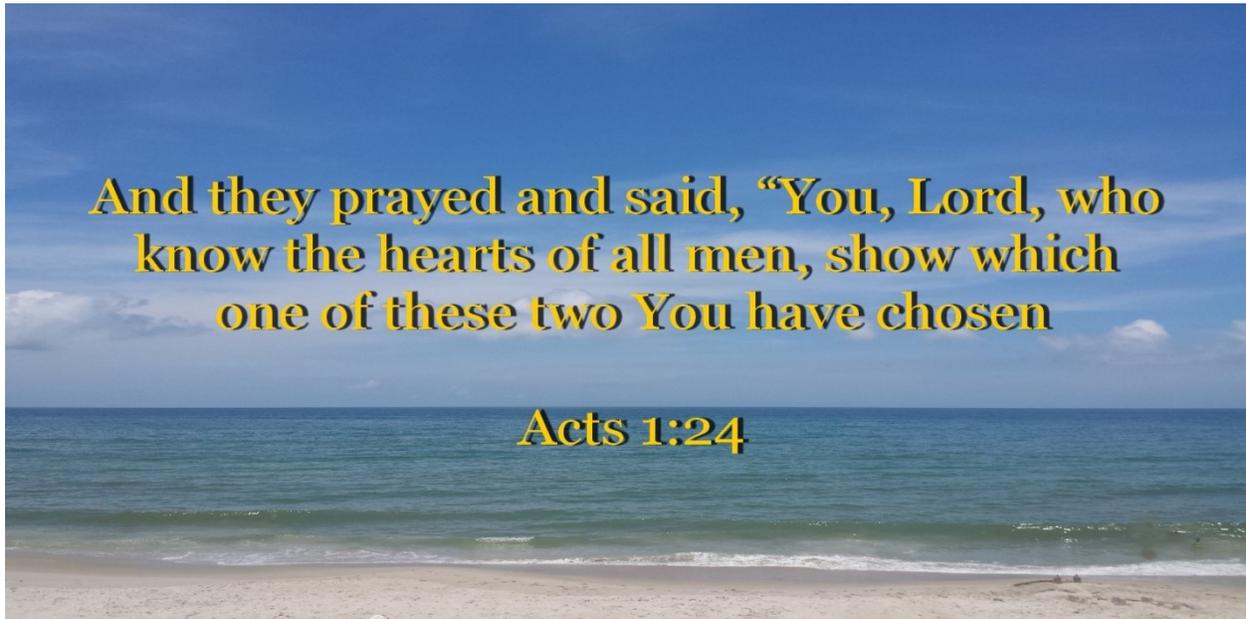
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the office of apostle and its function in the New Testament church. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the ministry of those apostles and their faithfulness to God's calling?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 24

Prayed Today



Why did the apostles pray? The apostles prayed because they knew that God knew the hearts of Joseph and Matthias.

God knows the hearts of every man and looks into them. Nothing in man is hidden from God. Every thought, motive, and desire God knows. People may say one thing and do another, but God knows their heart every time.

Notice that the apostles understood that the heart of Judas Iscariot betrayed him. Judas made terrible choices with his heart. As a result of those bad choices in his heart, he vacated his ministry and the office of apostle. He was truly the son of destruction, and Jesus knew it the whole time.

The apostles did not expect that they would make the final decision between Matthias and Joseph. They relied upon God to make His choice plain to them. The apostles understood the gravity of the choice before them and the long-range consequences.

Hearts

1. **They**. Who prayed about the decision about Joseph and Matthias? The apostles were all together, pursuant to the command of Jesus Christ.
2. **Prayed**. The apostles prayed together, seeking God's will.
3. **Lord**. The apostles also called Jesus Lord, indicating the honor they recognized in Him.
4. **Hearts**. The apostles recognized the importance of the Lord examining the hearts of the candidates, Joseph and Matthias.
5. **Show**. The apostles did not expect to make the decision themselves, but rather God would reveal his choice to them.
6. **One**. Living holy in the family of God means that the office of apostle should be held by twelve men, not thirteen or eleven.
7. **Chosen**. We rejoice today because we could always count upon the Lord to make the proper choices at the proper time and reveal them to us.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by trusting God to reveal His will to us.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God makes choices among men, raising one man above another at the proper time.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by recognizing God's authority in the church to select leaders who will glorify Him.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His loving care about the decisions facing every local assembly. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that He knows how to make every decision, especially the big ones?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 25

Apostleship Today



When Judas turned aside, what did he leave behind? Judas left behind the ministry and apostleship given to him by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus chose Judas Iscariot to be one of the twelve apostles. Those men traveled with Jesus and watched Him firsthand. He chose them to be with Him. He even sent them out on special assignments.

Judas had everyone but Jesus fooled. At the Last Supper, none of the other apostles thought Judas was the betrayer. He had kept up a very good front in front of all of them. Yet, Jesus knew all about Judas and his evil ways.

Judas shared in the ministry of the eleven apostles. Apparently, they shared all things in common. Judas was in charge of the moneybox, and pilfered money out of it.

Jesus chose Judas knowing he would betray Jesus. The evil done by Judas did nothing to frustrate the plans of God. Jesus chose Judas knowing

that satan would enter into him and destroy Judas. Jesus would triumph over satan and Judas and over everyone else who opposed Him.

Ministry

1. **Occupy**. Who was going to occupy the ministry and apostleship vacated by Judas? The apostles understood a choice must be made to find that successor.

2. **Ministry**. Judas shared in the ministry of the apostles.

3. **Apostleship**. Judas also held the office of apostle and he vacated his apostleship by death.

4. **Judas**. Judas held a lifelong appointment to the office of apostle, just like the other apostles.

5. **Turned**. Judas, however, turned aside to go his own way.

6. **Go**. Living holy in the family of God means that we understand some men leave their calling and go away from Jesus and His work.

7. **Own**. We rejoice today because we left our own way to follow Jesus in the Way.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by following Jesus and fulfilling our ministry.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that some people hold a ministry or a church office and turn away from them because they were never born again.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the power of God to keep us from stumbling so that we follow Him as His sheep for all eternity.**

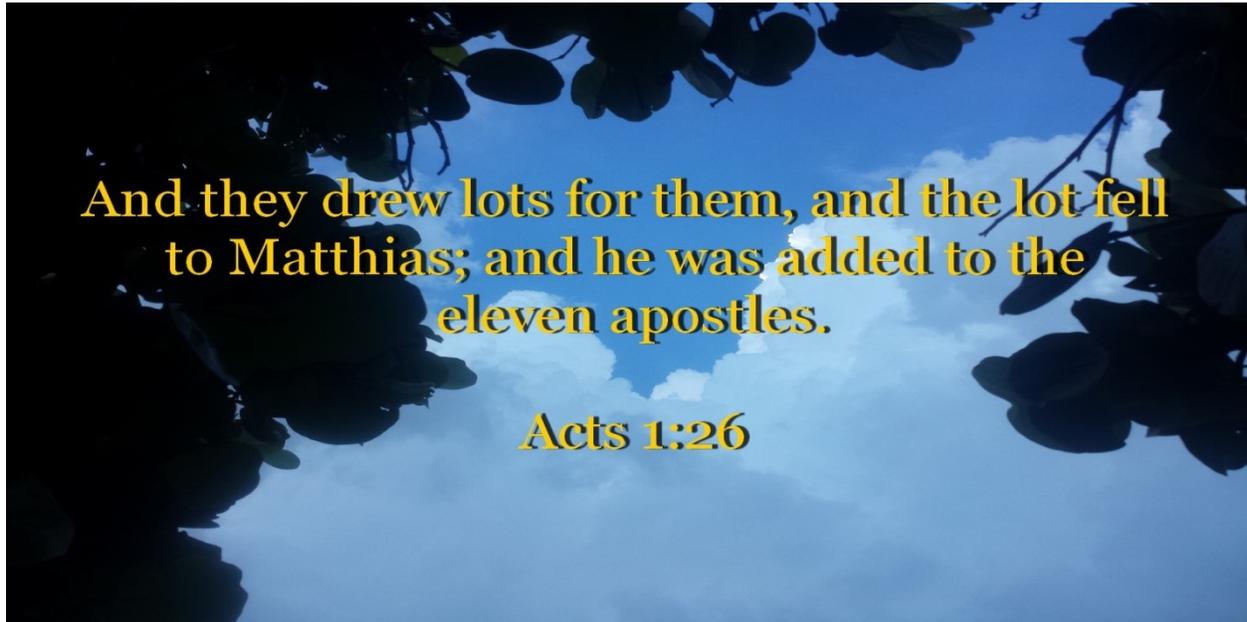
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by following Jesus and not turning away to our own way. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that imposters hold ministries and church offices just like Judas?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 26

Drew Lots Today



Why did they draw lots? They drew lots for God to choose between Joseph and Matthias.

Two men met the criteria to replace Judas Iscariot. Both Joseph and Matthias were with the other apostles from the baptism of John to the ascension of Jesus.

The apostles wanted to know God's choice between those two men. Therefore, they cast lots seeking to know God's choice. They knew that God knew the hearts of both men.

The apostles, in obedience to the command of Jesus Christ, had stayed together in Jerusalem after Jesus ascended to heaven. They were waiting for the power of the Holy Spirit to come upon them, so that they would be His witnesses.

The apostles understood that only twelve men should hold the office of apostle at any given time. Therefore, they had to choose a replacement for Judas who turned away from his ministry and the office of apostle.

Apostles

1. **Drew**. Why did the apostles draw lots? The apostles drew lots because they believed that the lots would reveal the decision from Yahweh.
2. **Lots**. While people may cast a lot into the lap, every decision is from Yahweh.
3. **Fell**. Having drawn lots, the decision fell to Matthias.
4. **Matthias**. We know that Matthias was with the other apostles from the baptism of John to the ascension of Jesus, and so fulfilled the requirement to hold the office of apostle.
5. **Added**. Matthias was then added to the eleven apostles.
6. **Eleven**. Living holy in the family of God means that we know that eleven apostles were too few and thirteen apostles were too many.
7. **Apostles**. We rejoice today because the apostles continued the ministry of Jesus Christ and we benefit today from their faithfulness to Jesus.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering how the apostles sought direction from God regarding Matthias.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting God to make His choice known to us.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that God calls all of us to minister for Him each day using our spiritual gifts to His glory.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by delighting in God's purpose for our life so that we fulfill our daily ministry. Will you live holy in the family of God today by recognizing that God chose you to be in the family of God and you are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works?

HALLELUJAH !

5

Pentecost

Today

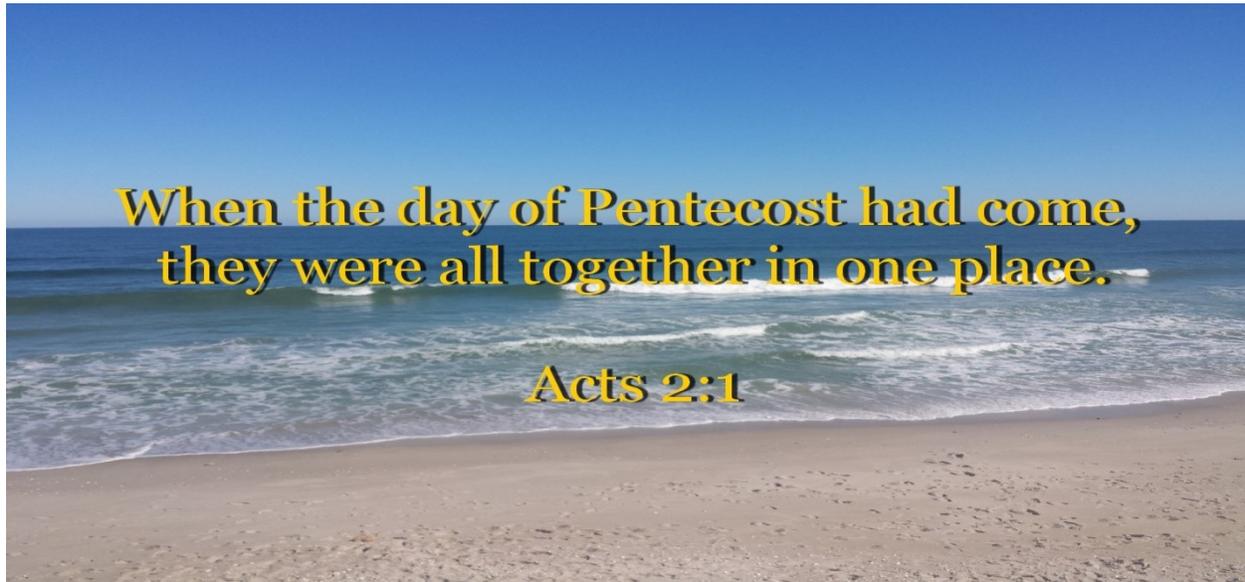
At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles like a rushing wind, and tongues of fire. He filled the apostles and they spoke in foreign languages known by the members of the crowd standing around them. Peter stood up and proclaimed Christ to the crowd. He started by quoting the Old Testament and showing how the things happening that day fulfilled the prophecy of Joel. Peter emphasized the ministry of the Holy Spirit among the people of God. Three thousand souls were added to the church that day. Multitudes more followed day by day. The early church kept feeling a sense of awe as many signs and wonders were taking place through the apostles.

The congregation began selling their property and sharing all things. The needs of all the members of the congregation were being met. They were continuing in the temple and from house to house. They were devoting themselves to the apostle's teaching and to fellowship and to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 27

Pentecost Today



What is Pentecost? Pentecost is the 50th day after the Feast of First Fruits.

Jesus had commanded the apostles to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them. They were to remain together.

As they waited together, the apostles also met with a larger group numbering about 120 people, including Mary, the mother of Jesus, and His brothers. They devoted themselves to prayers while they waited for the Holy Spirit.

In the Old Testament when Solomon finished the Temple, God filled that Temple with His presence. Smoke filled the Temple. In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit will descend from heaven and fill the church composed of believers, particularly the apostles.

Today the Holy Spirit fills each believer at the moment of salvation and Jesus baptizes each believer with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation. God commands believers to be filled with the Holy Spirit each day. Sinful

activity grieves the Holy Spirit. God desires believers to walk in the Holy Spirit. Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as a Comforter and so He would comfort the apostles after Jesus went back to heaven.

Together

1. **When**. Why was the timing of the appearance of the Holy Spirit so important? Like so many events in the New Testament, the appearance of the Holy Spirit fulfilled prophecy at a particular time.

2. **Day**. The day of Pentecost marks one of those days in the history of the church.

3. **Pentecost**. Pentecost refers to the fiftieth day after the Feast of First Fruits.

4. **Command**. Jesus had commanded the apostles to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them.

5. **All**. Jesus also commanded them to wait together.

6. **One**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Pentecost as a very important day in the life of the church, because the Holy Spirit filled the apostles on that day and the church was born.

7. **Place**. We rejoice today because Jesus kept His promise and the Father sent the Holy Spirit in the Name of Jesus, just as Jesus prophesied, to Jerusalem, the very place that He commanded the apostles to wait for that day.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by celebrating Pentecost.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the day of Pentecost as the day the Holy Spirit filled the apostles.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the wonderful plan to empower witnesses to testify about Jesus and His great love.**

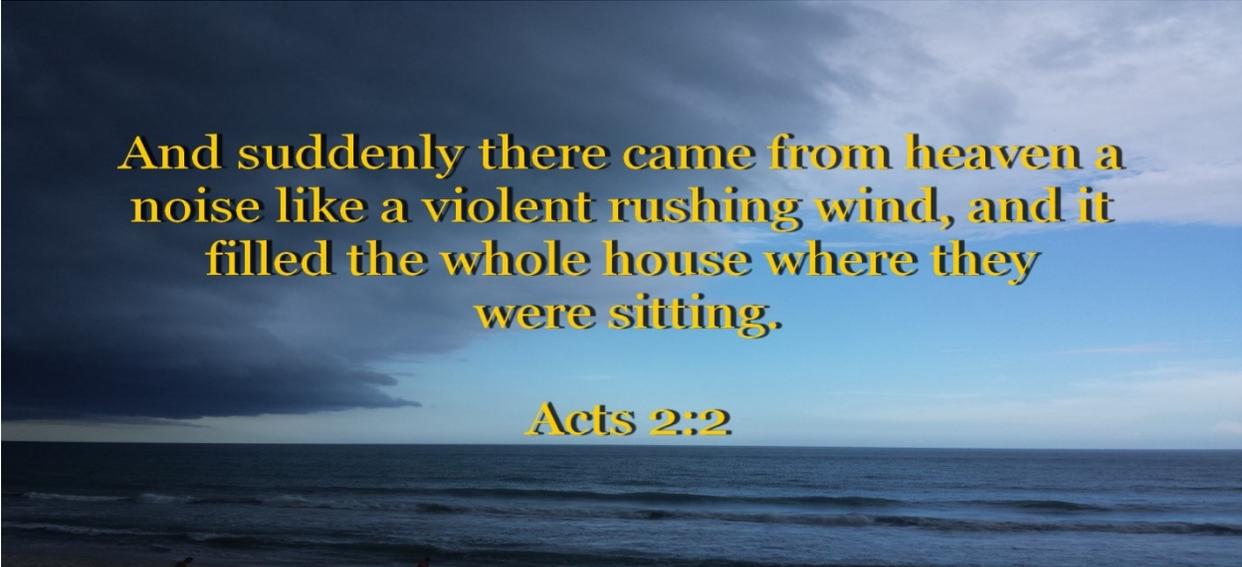
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Pentecost. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that the Father sent the Holy Spirit in the Name of Jesus on the day of Pentecost?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 28

Wind Today



And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:2

How did the Holy Spirit make His presence felt? The Holy Spirit came from heaven with the noise of a violent rushing wind.

As Jesus stood in the Jordan River at His baptism, the Holy Spirit descended from heaven upon Him as a dove and lit upon Him. The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus for public ministry.

In fulfillment of the prophecy of Jesus, the Father sent the Holy Spirit in the Name of Jesus to the apostles. On the day of Pentecost, when the apostles were gathered together, the Holy Spirit descended from heaven as promised.

A noise of a violent rushing wind filled the whole house where the apostles were gathered together. Because God is spirit, the apostles could not see the Holy Spirit Himself. He could make Himself known through visible manifestations and by the noise of wind.

The Holy Spirit brought power for ministry to the apostles. Jesus commanded the apostles to remain together until the Holy Spirit came upon them. They were to remain in Jerusalem and they did. The church was born

in Jerusalem when the Holy Spirit filled the apostles and took up permanent residence in them.

Filled

1. **Suddenly**. How did the Holy Spirit enter the house? The Holy Spirit appeared suddenly.

2. **Heaven**. The wind came from heaven.

3. **Noise**. The wind made the noise of a violent rushing.

4. **Wind**. Although the apostles could not see the Holy Spirit, He made His presence felt through the violent rushing when filling the whole house.

5. **Filled**. Just as the Holy Spirit filled the apostles, so also the Holy Spirit filled the whole house as a violent, rushing wind.

6. **House**. Living holy in the family of God means that we bless God for sending the Holy Spirit to live inside of us as a living Temple of God.

7. **Staying**. We rejoice today because the apostles were staying in the house waiting for the power and the Holy Spirit to come upon them in obedience to Jesus and His command.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Pentecost as the day the Holy Spirit filled the whole house and then the apostles.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by treasuring the ministry and presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by looking back with joy upon the first Pentecost after the ascension when the Holy Spirit filled the apostles.**

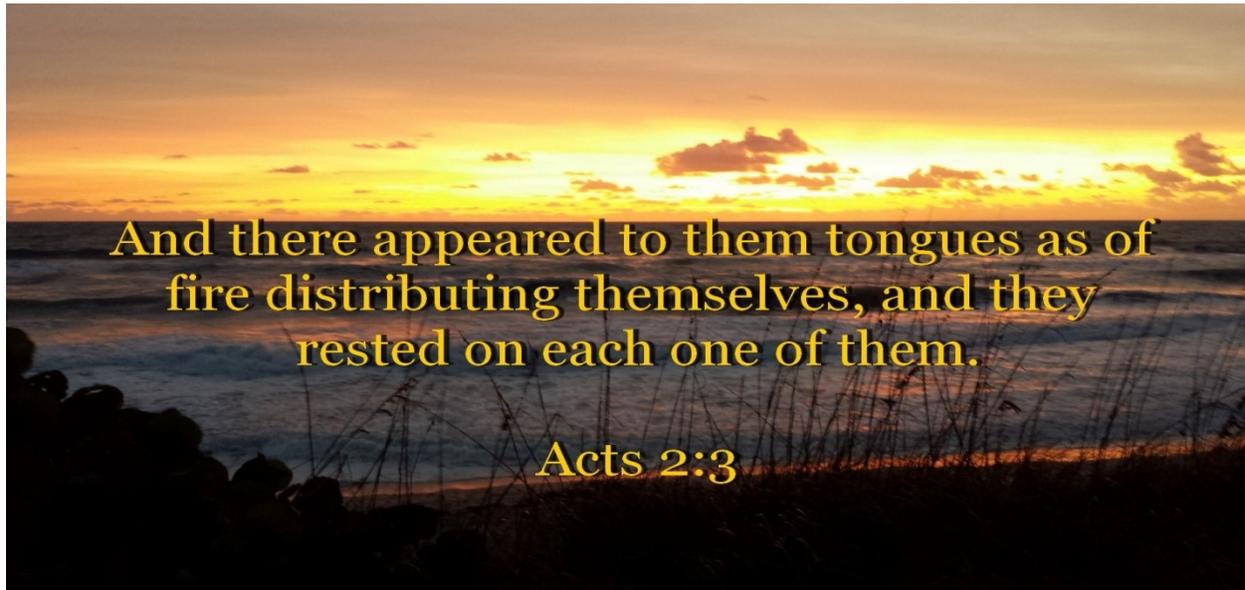
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving the Holy Spirit for empowering our lives to be witnesses for Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 29

Tongues Today



How did the Holy Spirit appear to the apostles? The Holy Spirit appeared to the apostles as tongues as of fire.

As the Holy Spirit descended from heaven suddenly and filled the entire house with a noise of violent rushing wind, He appeared to the apostles as tongues as of fire.

The tongues of fire distributed themselves and they rested on each of the apostles. The prophecy of Jesus concerning the Holy Spirit was being fulfilled in that house on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem.

The visible manifestation of the Holy Spirit here signals that the power promised by Jesus had come upon the apostles. The Holy Spirit came suddenly, audibly and visually.

The Holy Spirit settled upon each of the apostles simultaneously and individually. Each of the apostles received the filling of the Holy Spirit as the tongues of fire distributed themselves. Notice how the Holy Spirit came upon each of the apostles immediately.

Rested

1. **Appeared**. How did the Holy Spirit appear to the apostles? He appeared as tongues of fire.

2. **Tongues**. The tongues of fire settled upon each of the apostles, just as the Holy Spirit willed.

3. **Fire**. The Holy Spirit chose fire as the visible representation of His presence, symbolizing power and purification.

4. **Distributing**. The Holy Spirit, being omnipresent as God, filled all the apostles simultaneously, distributing those tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit willed.

5. **Rested**. The tongues as of fire rested upon each of the apostles.

6. **Each**. Living holy in the family of God means that we worship the Holy Spirit for filling each of the apostles and empowering each of them simultaneously for their ministry for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

7. **Them**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit coming upon the apostles marks a dynamic change in the program of God and the inauguration of the church age.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the tongues as of fire resting upon each apostle.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by delighting in the power the Holy Spirit filling our lives with His presence and power.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God through the power the Holy Spirit Who indwells each saint, Who joined us together as the Temple of the Holy Spirit.**

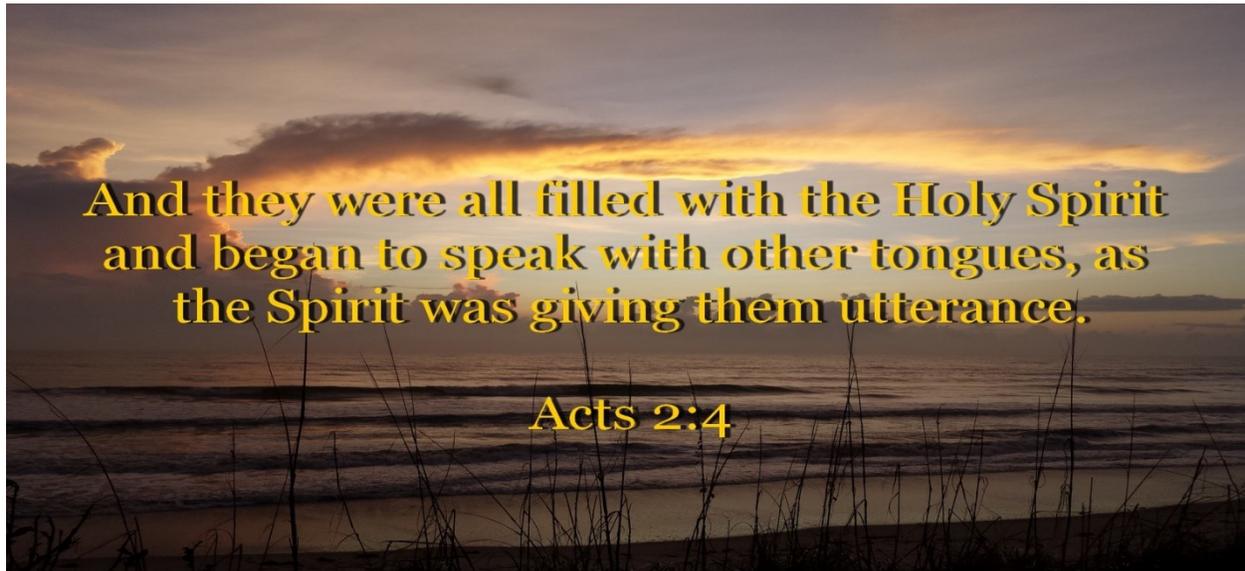
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the Holy Spirit Who came into our lives at the moment of salvation. Will you live holy in the family of God today by counting upon the Holy Spirit to empower you for ministry?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 30

Filled Today



What happened when the Holy Spirit filled the apostles? They began to speak with other tongues.

In fulfillment of the prophecy of Jesus, the Holy Spirit came from heaven as a violent rushing wind in all the house where the apostles were staying. He appeared to them as tongues as of fire, distributing those tongues upon each of the apostles.

At that moment, the Holy Spirit filled each of the apostles. They began to speak in other tongues as a visible sign of His presence in their lives. Things would never be the same for those apostles and the church of Jesus Christ was born. Jesus had just baptized the apostles with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would come upon them and give them power to be His witnesses in all the world. The abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the apostles inaugurated the church age.

The apostles began to speak with other tongues, playing upon the symbolism of the tongues of fire coming upon them. The spiritual gift of tongues reveals the mysteries of God.

Holy Spirit

1. **All**. Who was filled with the Holy Spirit? All the apostles gathered together were filled simultaneously with the Holy Spirit.
2. **Filled**. The Holy Spirit appeared as tongues as of fire, distributing those tongues to each of the apostles, filling them with the Holy Spirit.
3. **Holy Spirit**. The Holy Spirit manifested Himself as tongues of fire in a rushing, noisy wind.
4. **Speak**. Having been filled with the Holy Spirit, the apostles began to speak with other tongues.
5. **Tongues**. Speaking in other tongues showed others that the Holy Spirit had filled them and they were changed forever.
6. **Giving**. Living holy in the family of God means that we worship God for giving the Holy Spirit and providing visible evidence of His entrance into the lives of the apostles.
7. **Utterance**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit gave utterance to speak in other tongues through the apostles as He filled them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the fulfillment of the Holy Spirit filling the apostles as Jesus prophesied.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by exulting in the presence of the Holy Spirit in each of our lives as saints.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God because He has joined all the saints together by Jesus baptizing each member of the body of Christ and the Holy Spirit filling each saint at the moment of salvation.**

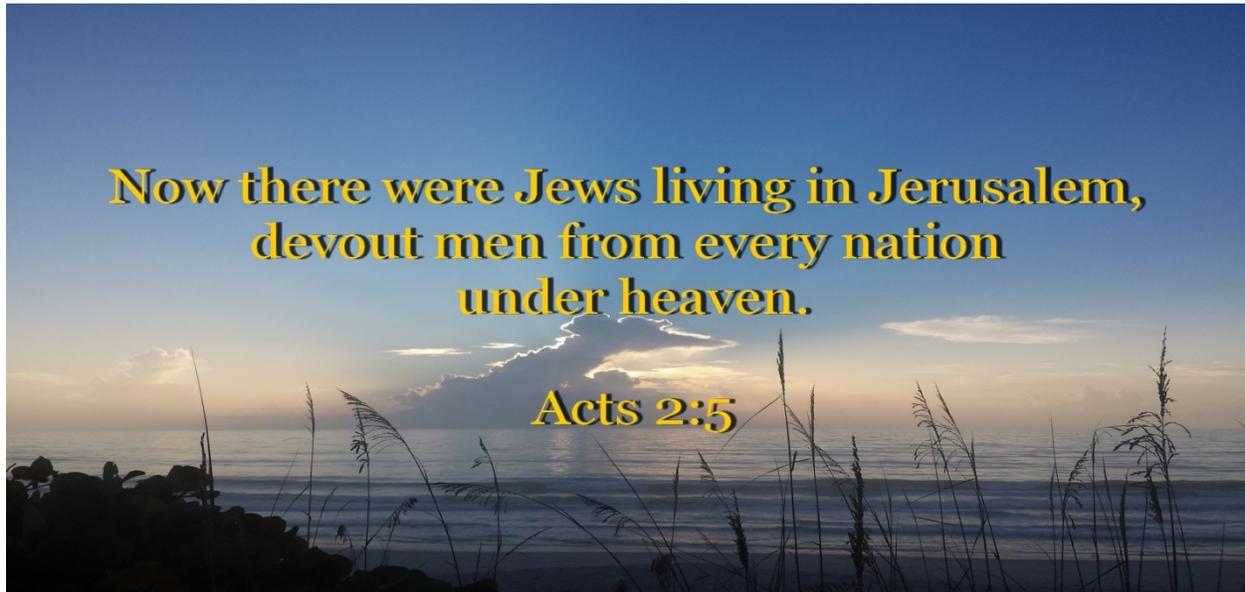
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by delighting in the Holy Spirit Who indwells each of us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that each of the apostles spoke in tongues as a visible representation of the coming of the Holy Spirit and the fulfillment of the prophecy of Jesus?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 31

Devout Today



Was Jerusalem an international city? Jerusalem had devout men from every nation under heaven living there.

Jesus commanded the apostles to remain in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them. Jesus further specified in prophecy that they should remain in Jerusalem before spreading the Gospel out to Judea and Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth.

Jerusalem had many devout men living in it from different areas of the Roman Empire. Israel had battles with Babylon, Egypt, Syria and many other places. Devout men migrated to Jerusalem from many different places.

Jesus knew that Jerusalem had been the historical headquarters of the Davidic kingdom and the place where God chose to build His Temple. He put His Name there.

Jesus had arranged for many people to witness the great events about to unfold in Jerusalem. The people from different parts of the world would be valuable witnesses about those events.

Heaven

1. **Jews**. Where did the Jews live? The Jews lived in Israel, but they also lived scattered across the world.
2. **Living**. Devout men from different nationalities lived in Jerusalem.
3. **Jerusalem**. Jerusalem was a historical capital of Israel, the place where God built His Temple.
4. **Devout**. Devout men, Jews, lived in Jerusalem, but they came from different lands with different tongues and customs.
5. **Every**. Every nation was represented by people living in Jerusalem.
6. **Nation**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus fulfilled the prophecy concerning the Holy Spirit and the presence of many nations.
7. **Heaven**. We rejoice today because God loves all people under heaven and desires that none perish, but that all people receive His Son as Savior.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that devout people come from many nations and live in many places.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for the diversity of people in the kingdom of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that God saves people from all over the world.**

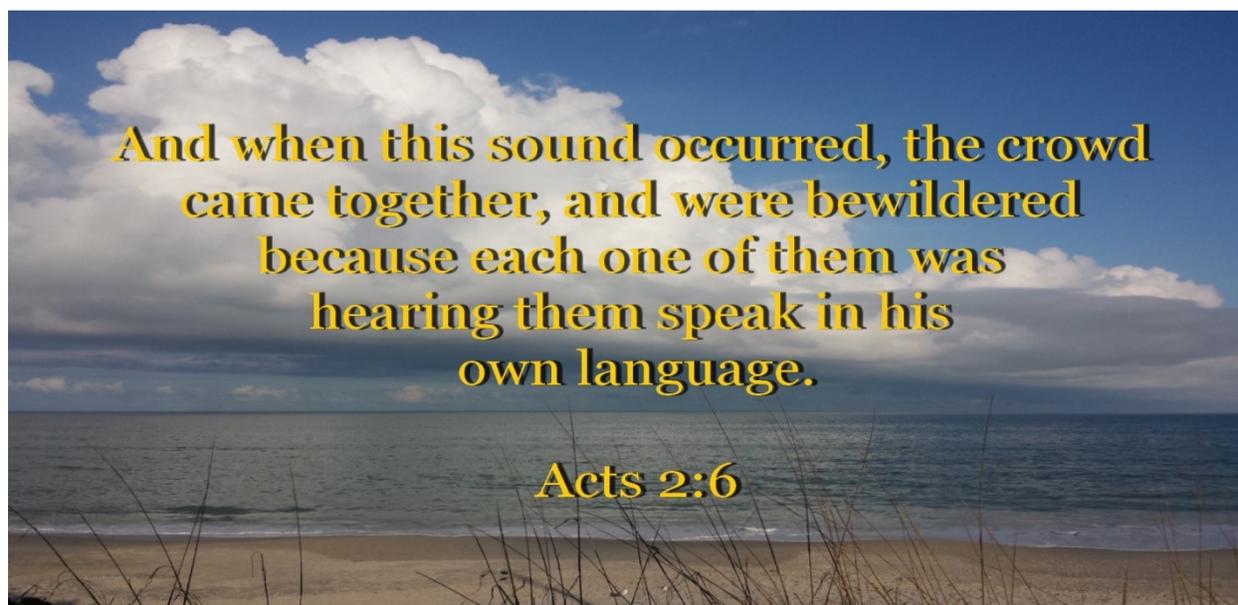
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by welcoming saints from all over the world. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for calling people from many nations into the church?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 32

Sound Today



What happened when the sound occurred? The crowd was bewildered.

The Holy Spirit descended into the place where the apostles were staying like a violent rushing wind which filled the place. At the same time, the apostles began speaking in the language of the different people in the crowd. Each one of them heard them speak in his own language.

The Holy Spirit provided tangible evidence of His presence and power. The apostles were speaking in known languages, intelligible to the hearer. The apostles were not making indistinct sounds or ecstatic utterances. Paul told us in Corinthians that people who speak in tongues speak mysteries. The New Testament defines a mystery as something that was previously hidden, but now revealed through the apostles and prophets. Tongues are for a sign to unbelievers.

Paul indicated that not all believers have the spiritual gift of tongues and not all believers speak in tongues. In fact, speaking in tongues only occurs three times in the Book of Acts. The other two times concern the conversion of the Samaritans and Gentiles.

Language

1. **Sound**. What happened when the Holy Spirit sounded like a rushing wind? The apostles began speaking in foreign tongues.
2. **Crowd**. A crowd of people from many nations heard the apostles speaking in their own tongues.
3. **Together**. The crowd came together upon hearing the noise of the Holy Spirit.
4. **Bewildered**. The crowd became bewildered when they heard the apostles speaking in their own tongue.
5. **Each**. Each person heard the apostles speaking in their own tongue.
6. **Own**. Living holy in the family of God means that God provides proof unmistakable that the Holy Spirit had just fulfilled the prophecy of Jesus concerning filling in baptism with the Holy Spirit because everyone the apostles speaking in their own language.
7. **Language**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit filled the apostles and they spoke in known languages to people in the crowd.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the apostles speaking in tongues.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the Holy Spirit produced tongues for the hearer in their own native language.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His powerful works in faithful fulfillment of His promises.**

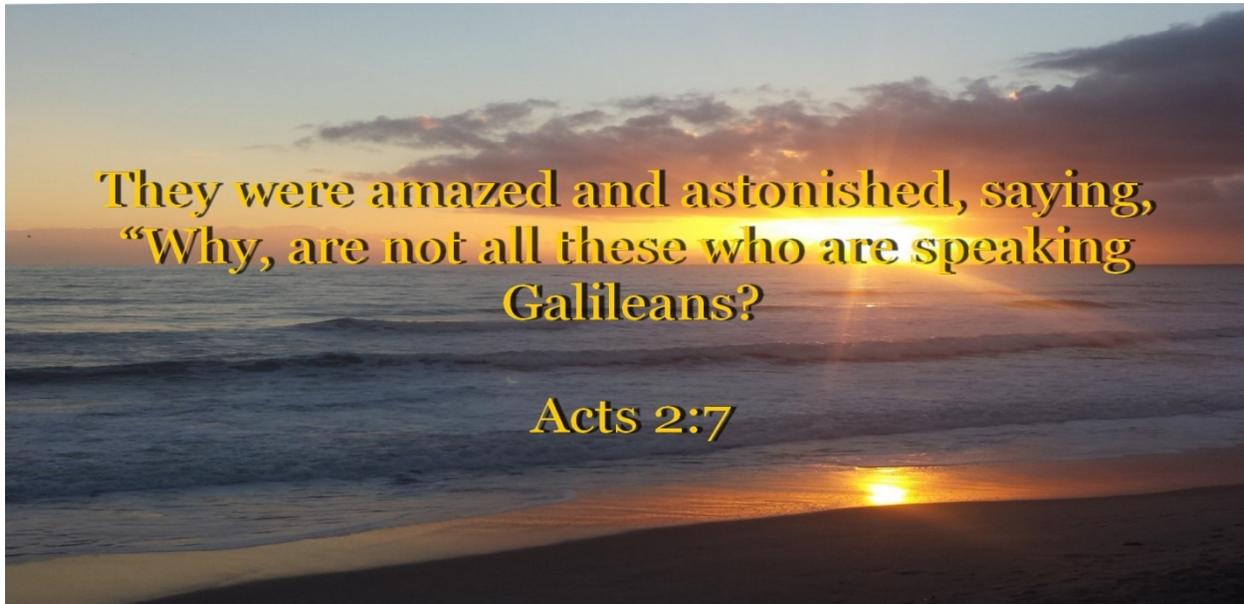
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the apostles speaking in tongues. Will you live holy in the family of God today by understanding the bewilderment of the crowd as they heard the apostles speaking in their own tongues?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 33

Amazed Today



They were amazed and astonished, saying,
“Why, are not all these who are speaking
Galileans?”

Acts 2:7

Why were the people in the crowd amazed and astonished? Because the apostles were all Galileans speaking foreign languages.

The Holy Spirit filled the apostles all at once while they were gathered together. The crowd gathered together when they heard the noise of the wind and they were bewildered by the apostles speaking in foreign languages. The Holy Spirit intended a sign for the unbelievers in the crowd.

The Holy Spirit produced a sign of speaking in known languages to people from many different countries. Each person heard them speaking in their own native tongue. The apostles were not speaking ecstatic utterance or uncontrolled speech. They were speaking known languages for the benefit of the crowd.

Speaking in tongues produced a testimony from God about the apostles and their work. News of the apostles speaking in tongues would circulate

quickly. They were Galileans speaking the languages of the crowd of people from many different places.

Galileans

1. **Amazed**. How did the crowd react when they heard the apostles speaking in foreign languages they understood? The crowd was amazed and astonished.

2. **Astonished**. The crowd was also astonished, finding it hard to comprehend how the Galileans could be speaking in their own language.

3. **Saying**. The crowd also gathered together and began speaking about these things, seeking to know more about what happened and what the apostles were saying.

4. **Why**. They asked why? The crowd understood there must be some greater purpose at work by this awesome display of God's power and purpose.

5. **All**. All the people in the crowd heard the apostles speaking in foreign tongues.

6. **Speaking**. Living holy in the family of God means that God bewilders crowds by His power in the Person of the Holy Spirit as a sign to unbelievers by speaking to them in their own languages.

7. **Galileans**. We rejoice today because the Galilean apostles spoke in foreign tongues by the power the Holy Spirit as proof of His presence in their lives.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God loves to work powerful miracles in the middle of crowds.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God confirmed the apostles as His messengers.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by standing in awe of the Holy Spirit for the marvelous things He does in in crowds of unbelievers.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping the Holy Spirit for His power and presence in our lives. Will you live holy in the family of God today by noticing the work of the Holy Spirit in your life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 34

Hear Today



Why did the crowd ask how these things happened? The crowd heard the wind first and then the apostles started speaking in different languages.

The apostles were not speaking unknown languages, but in the languages of the many people from many places in the crowd. The crowd asked how did that happen? They knew for the Galilean apostles to be speaking in their own native tongues was a great sign.

The Holy Spirit had just descended upon the apostles and taken up permanent residence in them. Jesus had just baptized the apostles with the Holy Spirit. In that instant of time the apostles were empowered to become the witnesses of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit produced the desired effects so that the crowd was amazed and astonished by the apostles speaking in tongues. Notice too that the rushing violent wind immediately preceded the apostles speaking in foreign tongues. The Holy Spirit appeared as tongues as of fire coming upon each of the apostles. The crowd asked how did these things happen because

they knew something miraculous had just occurred. All the people heard the apostles in their own native language.

Our own Language

1. **How**. How did this happen, the crowd asked? The crowd understood that something miraculous had taken place before their eyes.

2. **We**. All the people in the crowd said we heard the apostles speaking in our own language.

3. **Each**. Each person heard the language of the place where they were born.

4. **Hear**. The Holy Spirit revealed mysteries through the apostles in the tongues they spoke so that people heard the apostles in their own language.

5. **Our**. The Holy Spirit delivered messages to the people so that the crowd said they heard the apostles in our own languages.

6. **Own**. Living holy in the family of God means that crowd wondered how they heard the apostles speaking in their own languages. We appreciate the wonderful way that the Holy Spirit grabs the attention of everyone in the crowd at the same time and used the apostles as witnesses of His power and presence and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

7. **Language**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit indwells every believer, but not every believer speaks in tongues so that a foreigner hears the saint speak in their native language.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the crowd asked how did this happen that we hear the apostles speaking in our own language.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the purpose of the Holy Spirit in using the apostles to proclaim mysteries to the crowd.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting the Holy Spirit to move upon individuals and crowds to draw them to Jesus Christ for salvation.**

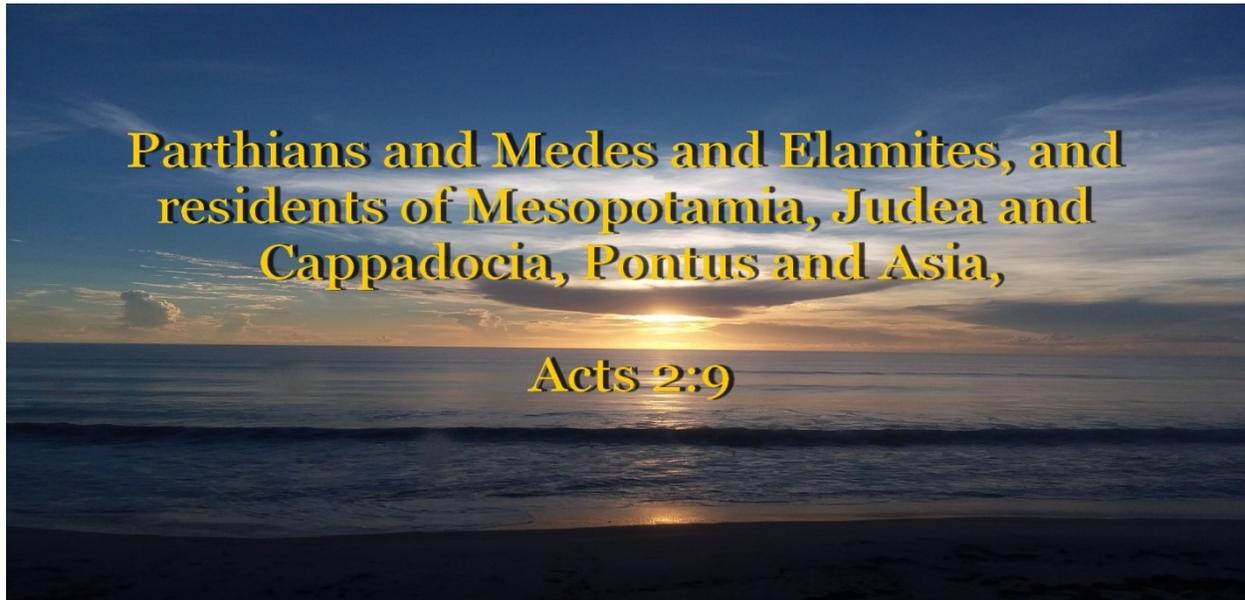
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by studying the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the powerful signs He produced through the apostles. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting the Holy Spirit to give you the words to say to lead people to Jesus Christ as Savior?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 35

Nations Today



Where did the people in the crowd come from? They came from all over the Middle East.

The Parthians, Medes, and Elamites were all fierce warriors and strong people from the area around modern Iran. Some of them came to Jerusalem and began living there. Others from Mesopotamia also came to Jerusalem and settled there.

Other people from Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia also came to Jerusalem to live there. Therefore, we know the crowd was filled with people who spoke very different languages in the places they were born. Yet, they traveled to Jerusalem and settled there.

The Holy Spirit selected those people to be eyewitnesses themselves of His presence and power. He came in the noise of a rushing, violent wind. He appeared to the apostles as tongues of fire, distributed upon the apostles. He gave the apostles utterance to speak in the languages of the people from empires and lands far removed from Israel.

Residents

1. **Parthians**. Parthia was a district of Asia, bounded by Hyrcania, Ariana, and Carmania, in modern Asia Minor.
2. **Medes**. In the Old Testament, Darius the Mede conquered Babylon and its empire. They inhabited Media, an area between western and northern Iran.
3. **Elamites**. Elam was a son of Shem, the son of Noah. The Elamites inhabited the far west and southwest of Iran, including the highlands east of Babylon.
4. **Mesopotamia**. This land lies between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, in the land known today as Iraq.
5. **Cappadocia**. This was the easternmost and largest province of Asia Minor.
6. **Pontus**. Living holy in the family of God means that people from many parts of the Roman Empire, including Pontus, witnessed the apostles speak in their own language.
7. **Asia**. We rejoice today because people from all over the Roman province of Asia and beyond witnessed the Holy Spirit coming upon the apostles and causing them to bear testimony in many languages to many people from many lands.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by counting upon the Holy Spirit to do many different things to draw people to Jesus Christ as Savior.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by delighting in the work of the Holy Spirit causing people to ask how and why questions about the signs He showed.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that the Holy Spirit indwells each believer from the day of salvation forward to all eternity.**

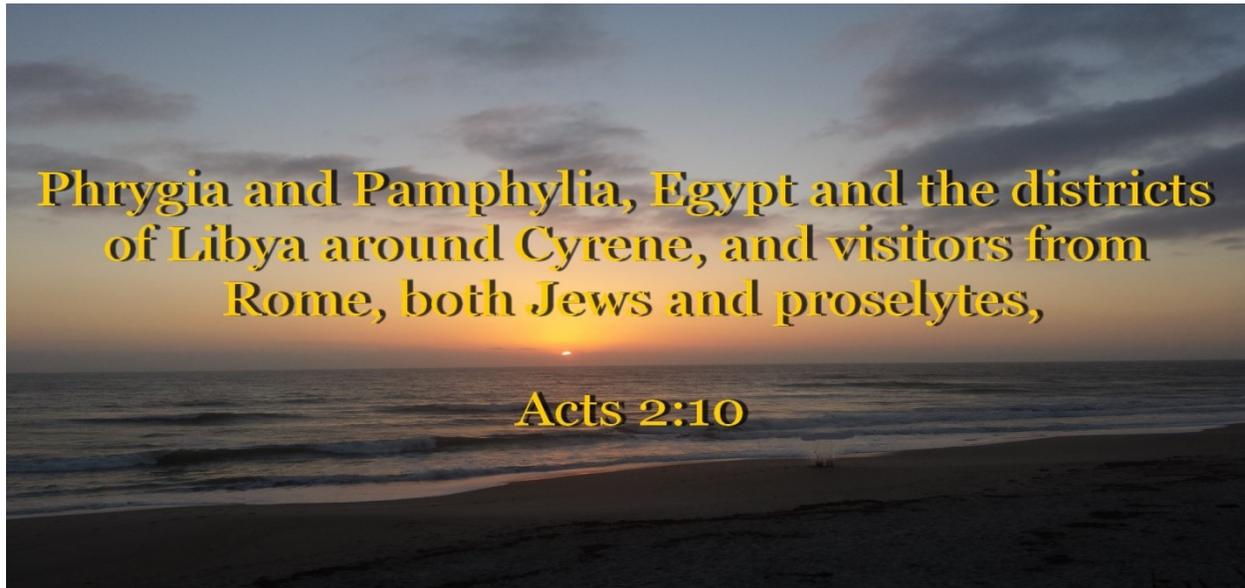
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting the Holy Spirit to reach out in many different ways through our lives to draw people to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in the Holy Spirit as He uses you as a witness of Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 36

Districts Today



What geographic regions were represented by the people at Pentecost? People from the Roman province of Asia and the districts of Libya around Cyrene and visitors from Rome were present at Pentecost.

Writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Luke provided a careful geographical history of the people attending Pentecost, many of whom lived in Jerusalem after being born elsewhere in the Roman Empire.

In the area around the Roman province of Asia, people from Phrygia and Pamphylia lived in Jerusalem and attended Pentecost. Likewise, people from the lands west of Israel in the areas of Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene also were present in the crowd at Pentecost. Both Jews and proselytes from Rome also attended Pentecost.

Not only would the apostles go out into the world to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but a wide variety of people from many locales were present at Pentecost. They all heard the apostles speaking in their own native languages. News of the event was sure to spread fast.

Jews and Proselytes

1. **Phrygia**. Rome created administrative districts in the area of today's Asia Minor, and often did so without regard to the ethnic populations and natural boundaries. The area of Phrygia constituted a major part of the western area of Asia Minor.

2. **Pamphylia**. This area lies in the south of Asia Minor, and Paul visited this area along the sea and extending inward to Mount Taurus.

3. **Egypt**. The people of Israel went into captivity in Exodus, and then God delivered them from their captivity to take the promised land in Canaan.

4. **Libya**. Farther west of Egypt lies Libya, and people even from the region of Libya attended Pentecost.

5. **Cyrene**. This city in Egypt was near the sea and people from Cyrene will be heard from again in Acts as the Gospel of Jesus Christ spreads to other nations.

6. **Jews**. Living holy in the family of God means that many people and Jews from different geographical places, speaking different native languages, all heard the apostles speaking in their native tongues, as a sign and testimony to them.

7. **Proselytes**. We rejoice today because Jews and people converting to Judaism, including proselytes, heard the apostles speaking in their own tongues and people from all over were gathered together by God to witness the birth of the church and hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding the love God has for people from all over the globe.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God loves people of different languages, cultures and traditions.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving other people like God loves us and showed great signs for unbelievers to recognize His great love for them.**

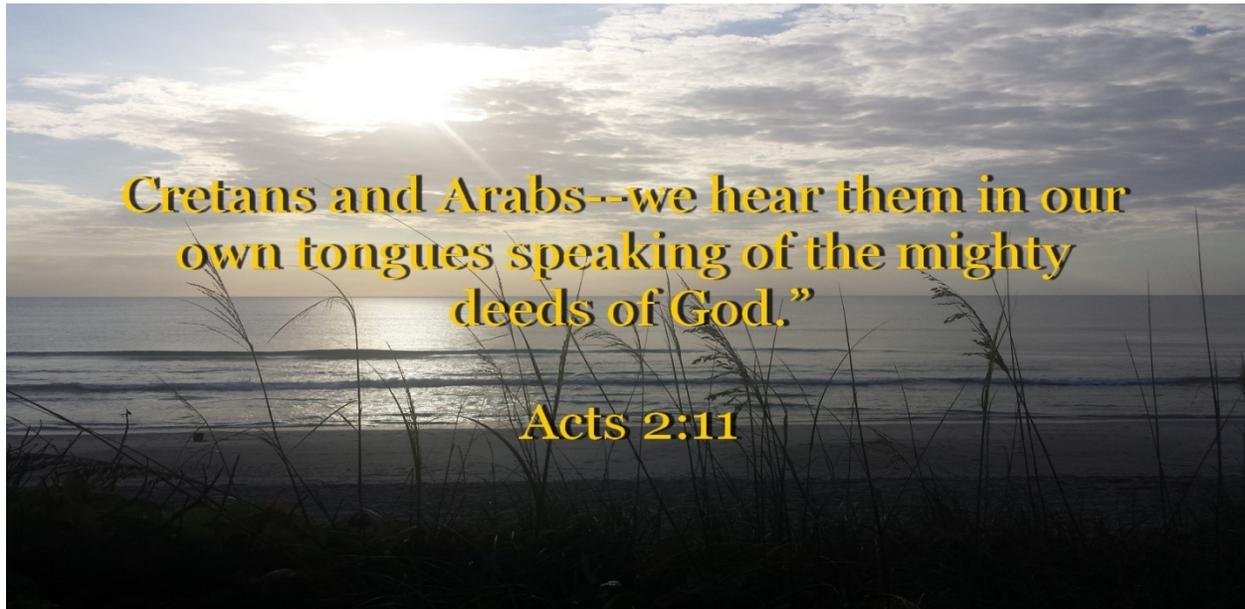
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by appreciating the unbounded love of God for all people. Will you live holy in the family of God today by accepting people from different lands and cultures into the family of God by faith in Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 37

Speaking Today



What did the people hear the apostle say in different tongues? They heard the apostles speaking of the mighty things of God.

Paul wrote that the spiritual gift of tongues involves speaking the mysteries of God. The mysteries of God are detailed in the New Testament. Those mysteries are revelations of things hidden in the Old Testament and now revealed in the New Testament. People often think mysteries mean there are still hidden, but the opposite is true.

The apostles, speaking under the influence of the Holy Spirit, spoke of the great things of God. Those things could have included the mysteries of God. The term "great things" only occurs here in the New Testament and could refer to things or works, although a different Greek word is often used for works or acts.

Pentecost signaled the Holy Spirit coming upon the apostles and many eyewitnesses from all over the world had been gathered together by God for the purpose of watching that event and then hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Deeds of God

1. **Cretans**. Who were the Cretans? Some people from the island of Crete were in Jerusalem on Pentecost.
2. **Arabs**. Some Arabs were in Jerusalem as well.
3. **We**. The many people from many places all heard the apostles and said we heard the apostles speaking in our own tongues.
4. **Hear**. The people could distinctly hear the apostles and the words they were saying.
5. **Speaking**. The apostles were speaking known languages and the people heard the apostles speaking languages they spoke themselves.
6. **Things**. Living holy in the family of God means that we know God created a great sign at Pentecost by having the apostles speak of the great things of God in the language of the people in Jerusalem who came from all over the world.
7. **God**. We rejoice today because God loves to reach out to people from all over the world so that some of them will believe and carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ all over the world.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Pentecost as a time where Cretans, Arabs and people from many other places heard the apostles speaking in their own language about the mighty things of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by loving Jesus for baptizing the apostles with the Holy Spirit in front of a crowd from all over the world.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that the Holy Spirit lives inside of us and moves us to speak for Him about the great things of God.**

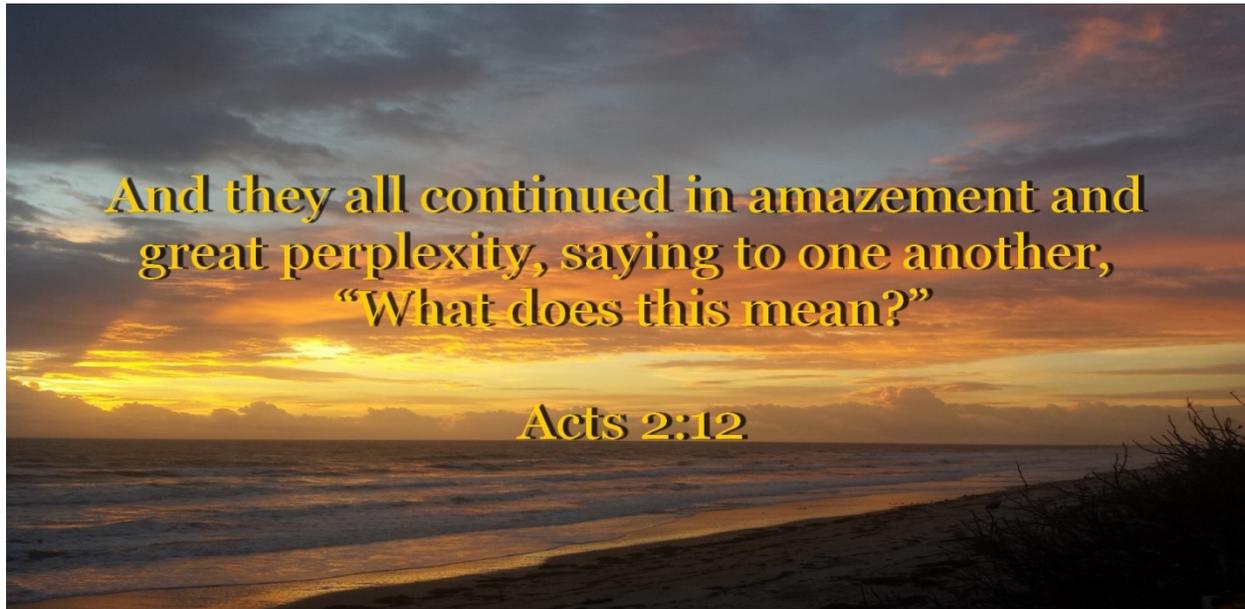
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by speaking about the great things of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by expecting that the Holy Spirit will speak through you as opportunities arise to tell people about the great things that God has done for you?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 38

Amazement Today



What did the crowd think about the apostles speaking known languages? Many people in the crowd were amazed and perplexed.

People from many distant places witnessed some very strange events in Jerusalem that day. They heard the violent rushing wind and then they heard the apostles speaking in known languages. The people hearing the apostles heard them speak in their own language.

The apostles were speaking of the great things of God. Jesus had promised the Holy Spirit would come upon the apostles at the right time. That time had come for the prophecy to be fulfilled and it was. The Father sent the Holy Spirit in the Name of the Son.

The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles to empower them to be the witnesses of Jesus beginning in Jerusalem, then Judea and Samaria and the remotest part of the earth. Jesus had a geographical plan for spreading the Gospel which began in Jerusalem.

Perplexity

1. **They**. The crowd composed of people from many distant lands all heard the apostles speaking in their own languages.

2. **Amazement**. The crowd was amazed when they heard the apostles speaking in a language they knew very well. In many different languages the apostles spoke of the great things of God.

3. **Perplexity**. The crowd also felt perplexed, because they did not understand what they were hearing. The crowd heard the apostles speaking in different languages known to the members of the crowd.

4. **Saying**. The people in the crowd started asking one another what was going on.

5. **Another**. The Parthians, Cretans and Medes, for example, started asking one another what was happening with the apostles.

6. **What**. Living holy in the family of God means that we understand what God did at Pentecost with the apostles, even when the crowd asked what does this mean?

7. **Mean**. We rejoice today because God achieved His purpose with the apostles spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and we know exactly what that sign meant: the Father had sent the Holy Spirit in the Name of Jesus and He baptized the apostles with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and they spoke foreign languages, telling of the great things of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by expecting people to be amazed and perplexed at the great things God does.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by expecting people to ask, “What does this mean?”**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by sharing with people the meaning of the things God has done in the past, is doing now, and will do in the future.**

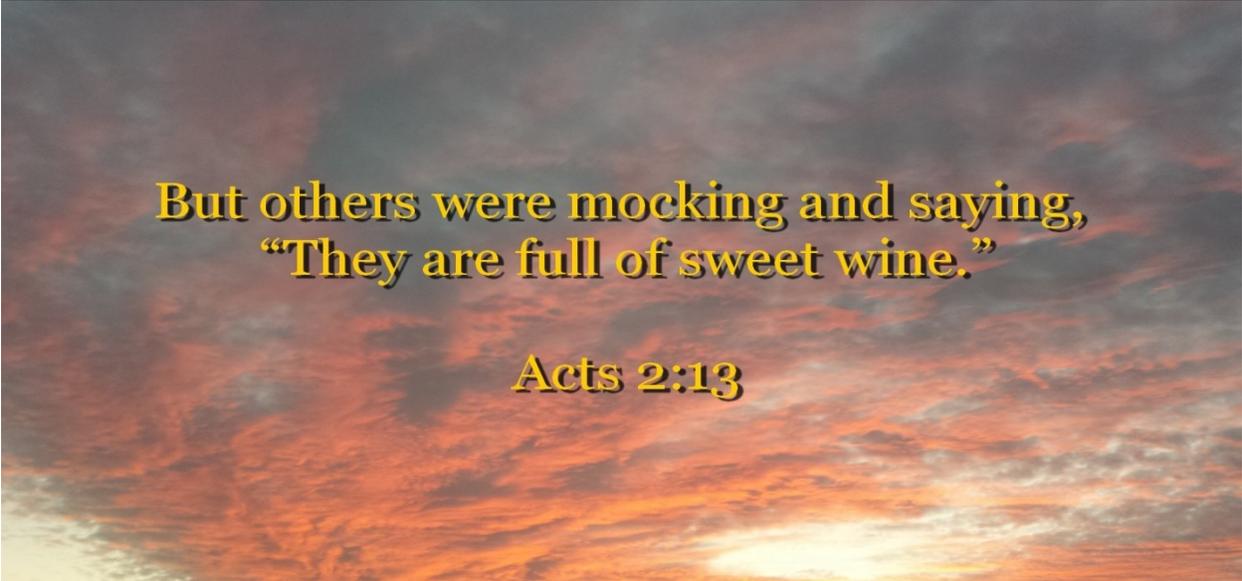
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by expecting people to ask serious questions about God and His works. Will you live holy in the family of God today by answering the questions posed by unbelievers seeing the works of God unfold before their eyes and ears?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 39

Mocking Today



But others were mocking and saying,
“They are full of sweet wine.”

Acts 2:13

What happens when God does a miracle? People tend to divide over what happened.

When the crowd heard the apostles speaking in foreign languages, some people in the crowd began to mock, saying that the people were full of new wine. Jesus said that most people were turned to the way of destruction by going through the broad gate. Few people would go in through the narrow gate leading to life.

God often did signs in the New Testament so that people would believe that God the Father had sent Jesus Christ into the world. Many people witnessed the miracles of Jesus and His great works of power. Jesus came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

Some people in the crowd listening to the apostles wrongly concluded they were full of sweet wine. They leapt to the conclusion that if they could not understand what the apostles were saying, then no one could. They failed to realize that some people in the crowd understood exactly what the apostles were saying because they were speaking in the same language.

Sweet Wine

1. **Others**. While some people were amazed and perplexed, seeking to know what the apostles had done, others were mocking.

2. **However**. Luke described the contrast between the two groups, indicating they were divided.

3. **Mocking**. Having heard the apostles speaking in different foreign languages, some people were mocking.

4. **Saying**. The mockers were talking and saying things about the apostles.

5. **They**. The mockers were freely sharing their impressions of the apostles and the foreign languages they did not understand.

6. **Full**. Living holy in the family of God means that we understand that some mockers will always claim that the apostles were full of wine.

7. **Wine**. We rejoice today because the apostles were not full of sweet wine, but filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking in foreign languages for the benefit of the multilingual audience.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that God works and people divide over what they have seen God do.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by expecting that mockers will arise whenever God acts.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that some people and some crowds understand that God works so that we would love Him and receive Jesus as Savior.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding that mockers will arise. Will you live holy in the family of God today by expecting that mockers will oppose the works of God?

HALLELUJAH !

6

Peter's Holy Spirit Sermon Today

The Holy Spirit filled Peter at Pentecost. The men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem were gathered in Jerusalem for Pentecost. They had heard the apostles speaking in foreign languages. Some of the crowd thought that they were drunk. Peter seized the moment and, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, proclaimed the risen Christ to the crowd.

Peter started by quoting the prophet Joel and showing that the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the apostles. They will prophesy. God will also grant wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below. Everyone who calls upon the Name of Yahweh shall be saved.

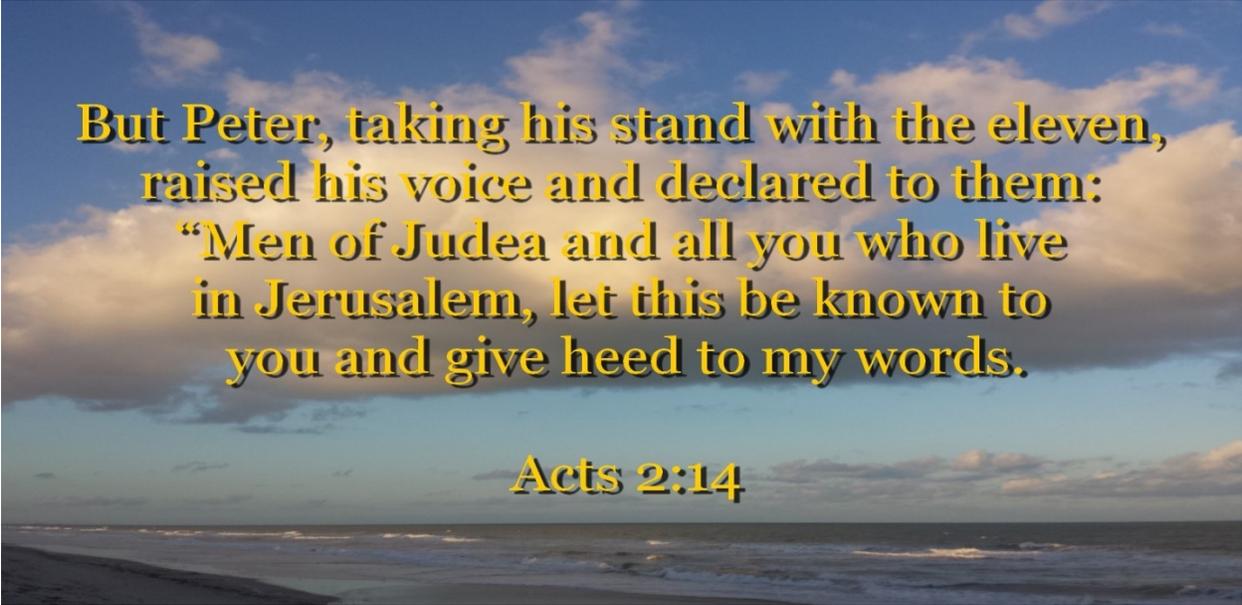
Peter then explained Jesus the Nazarene and His ministry to them. Peter proclaimed that God with signs and wonders and miracles attested to the fact that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah of Israel. Peter then quoted David saying that he saw Yahweh and he exulted. God would never allow David's soul to go to Hades nor allow His Holy One to undergo decay. Peter applied the prophecy of David to Jesus of Nazareth.

Peter declared confidently that the body of the patriarch David was still with them to that day. David spoke about the resurrection of Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades nor did His flesh suffer decay. Therefore, having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit, Jesus poured forth the Holy Spirit and people were saved in Jerusalem on that day. Peter wanted everyone to know in the house of Israel that God is made Jesus of Nazareth both Lord and Christ-- the very Jesus they crucified.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 40

Declared Today



But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: “Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words.

Acts 2:14

How did Peter respond to the mockers? Peter seized the moment to address the crowd.

Peter took his stand with the eleven other apostles. He raised his voice and called upon the men of Judah to listen and give heed to his words. Please recall that Jesus had promised that when the Holy Spirit had come upon the apostles, they would be His witnesses.

Immediately after Jesus baptized the apostles with the Holy Spirit, they were empowered to start witnessing for Christ. So often in the Bible God uses physical displays of His power to open the door so that people will hear the message of salvation. Peter stood up and began testifying immediately about what happened and what it meant. He responded directly to the mockers and began to answer the questions posed by the crowd.

Peter addressed the men of Judea. He understood that the inhabitants of Jerusalem had come from many different lands and spoke many different languages. The time had come for the apostles to bear witness to Jesus.

Give Heed

1. **Peter**. Peter stood with the eleven other apostles.
2. **Stand**. Peter took his stand with the eleven other apostles, indicating the unity and power from the Holy Spirit filling them.
3. **Eleven**. The office of apostle had been filled by Matthias and so Peter stood with the other apostles.
4. **Voice**. Peter raised his voice because of the size of the crowd and the voices and questions running through the crowd.
5. **Men**. Peter directly addressed the men of Judea.
6. **Heed**. Living holy in the family of God means that God empowers us to seize the moment and testify of Jesus so that people should heed what God has said about salvation in Jesus Christ.
7. **Words**. We rejoice today because we heeded the words spoken by the apostles and received eternal life as a free gift from God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by standing together and raising our voices to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Peter addressing the crowd.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by joining together and staying together as we bear witness to Jesus Christ.**

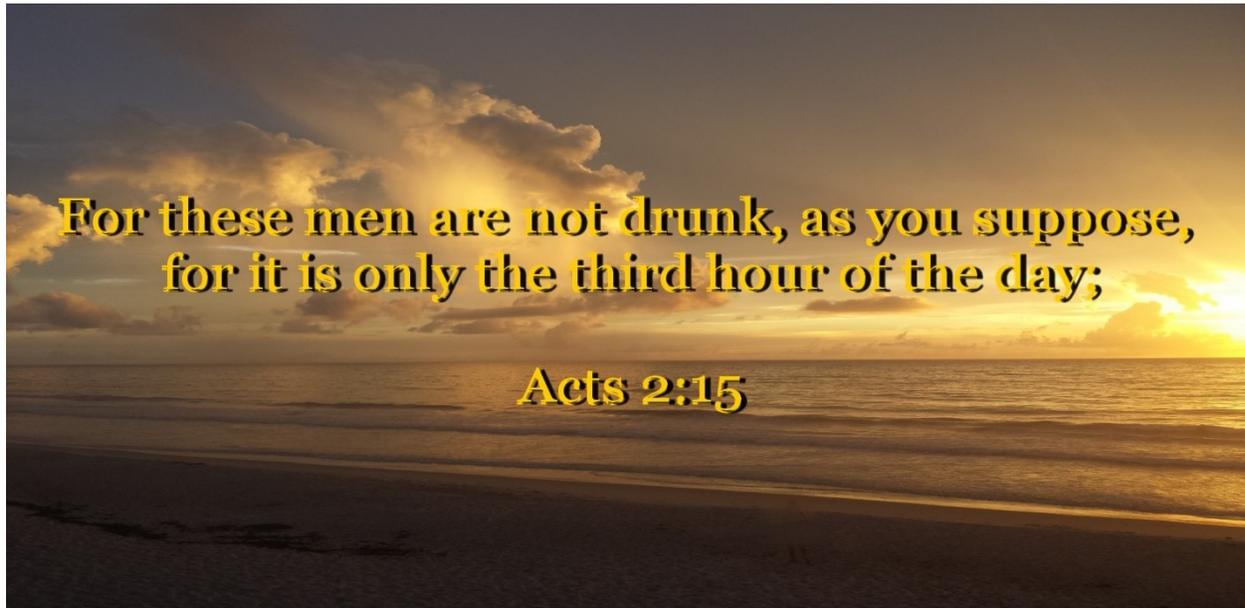
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering to raise our voices with the other saints when opportunities arise to speak up for Jesus and His great love for people. Will you live holy in the family of God today by speaking to people about Jesus and answering their questions?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 41

Not Drunk Today



For these men are not drunk, as you suppose,
for it is only the third hour of the day;

Acts 2:15

How did Peter respond to the charge that the apostles were drunk? Peter confronted the suppositions of the mockers with logic and Scripture.

The Holy Spirit filled the apostles and the church was born in an instant. Each of those apostles was joined together as the Temple of God indwelt by the Holy Spirit. At that same moment, Jesus baptized them with the Holy Spirit. Nothing like that had happened before, but the time had come for the church to be born, the apostles to testify, and a great new age began for the expansion of Christianity to all nations, including all the Gentiles.

As with every great work of power, mockers arise attempting to stultify the work of God and deny the power of God. Left unchecked, the mockers spread their evil to others.

Jude commanded us to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. Peter stood up among the apostles and confronted the mockers directly. What the mockers intended as an attack upon the apostles and God, God turned into the perfect opportunity for Peter to explain authoritatively

what the mockers and others were watching. Peter understood that many people in the crowd had heard the apostles speaking in their own language and knew they were not drunk. Peter began the ministry of testifying to the life, crucifixion, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, while proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations.

Third Hour

1. **These**. What did the mockers suppose incorrectly? The mockers supposed incorrectly that the apostles were drunk because they were speaking in tongues unintelligible to the mockers.

2. **Men**. Men often jumped to the wrong conclusions when they overlooked God's activity.

3. **You**. Peter addressed the mockers directly and challenged their conclusions.

4. **Suppose**. When people suppose, they often reflect their own biases.

5. **Third**. Using logic, Peter reminded the mockers that most people drink late in the day, not early.

6. **Hour**. Living holy in the family of God means that we understand the hours of each day should be used to the glory of God, which means in some cases we confront the mockers.

7. **Day**. We rejoice today because God provides days so that we will use them to His glory, and not waste them in dissipation.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by confronting the mockers in the power the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by standing with others as they confront the mockers in the power of the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by expecting mockers to arise, but God to triumph over all evil, using saints to share His love and the Gospel of Jesus Christ with great power.**

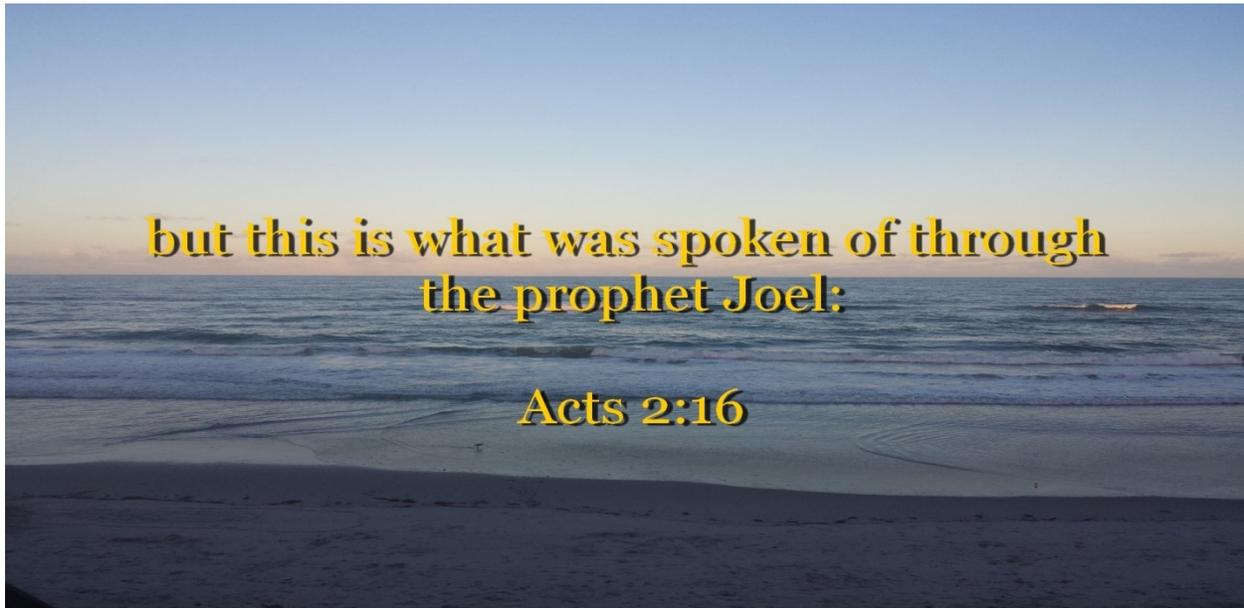
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by confronting the mockers in the power of the Holy Spirit. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to overcome the mockers and use their words to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 42

Spoken Today



How did Peter bring the Scriptures to bear upon the mockers? Peter quoted the prophet Joel.

When the apostles confronted mockers and other opponents of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, they frequently referred to the Bible. Likewise, when Jesus confronted the devil, He quoted the Scriptures to the devil and applied them perfectly.

God inspired the Scriptures, word for word, so that the Scriptures in the original autographs contain Holy Words. God breathed out every word of the Scriptures. Therefore, properly applied by the Holy Spirit, those Holy Words contain great power to confront mockers and everyone who opposes God.

The Scriptures also revealed the future. At times, as we stand in the present, we understand we are watching the fulfillment of Scripture before our eyes. As Peter stood that day at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit had just filled him, and Jesus had just baptized him with the Holy Spirit. Full of the Holy Spirit, Peter turned to the prophet Joel to link the present with the prophecy.

Prophet

1. **But**. How did Peter use the Scriptures? Peter used the Scriptures, and particularly the prophet Joel, to explain the apostles speaking in tongues and God revealing Himself to the crowd and others.

2. **This**. Peter explained why the apostles were speaking in tongues.

3. **Was**. The prophet Joel had spoken in the past, but his prophecy came true in the present.

4. **Spoken**. Centuries before Pentecost, the Holy Spirit had spoken through Joel so that the Holy Words of his prophecy, given by inspiration of God, would be remembered and proclaimed at Pentecost by Peter.

5. **Through**. The Holy Spirit spoke to Joel and to Peter, centuries apart but linked by the eternal God.

6. **Prophet**. Living holy in the family of God means that we understand prophets revealed the Holy Words for our benefit.

7. **Joel**. We rejoice today because God spoke Holy Words through the prophet Joel so that the prophet Peter could confront the mockers at just the right time with those words, showing unquestionably that the power of God was at work among men on that day of Pentecost and a new age had begun.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding how the prophets help us live in the present.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by applying the prophecies of Scripture correctly to confront mockers, refute liars, and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the nations.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for breathing out the Scriptures and providing Holy Words to strengthen and encourage saints as they share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

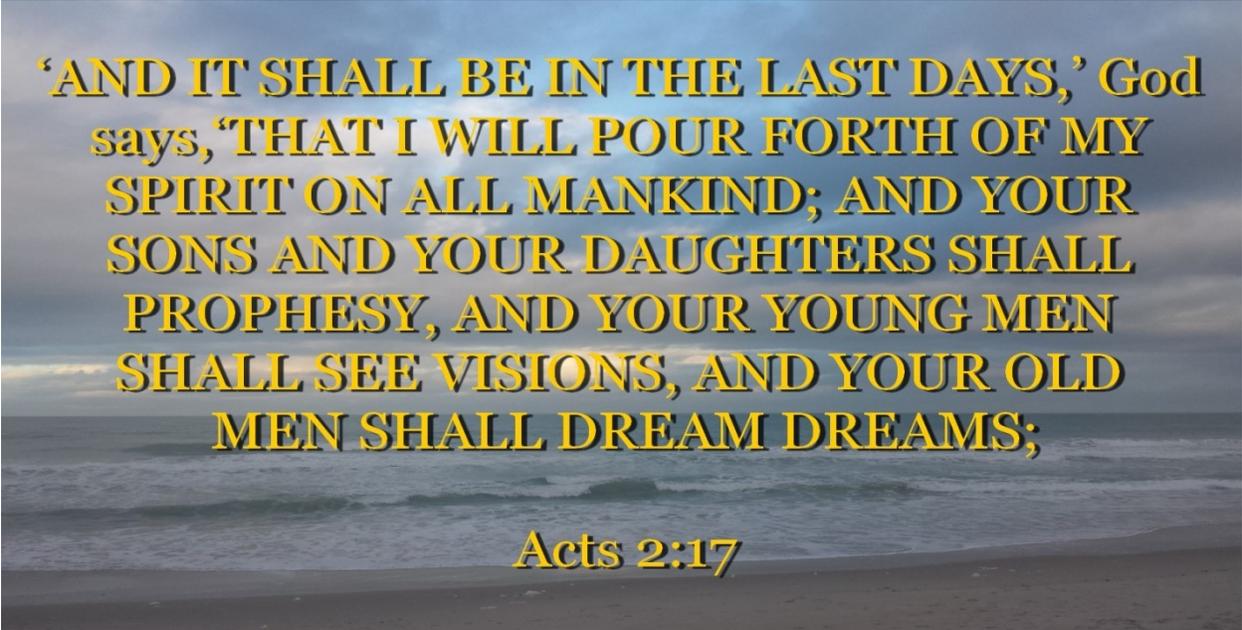
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the Holy Words provided through the prophet Joel. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in the work of the Holy Spirit Who gave us the Scriptures?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 43

Last Days Today



‘AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,’ God says, ‘THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;

Acts 2:17

What will happen in the last days? In the last days, God will pour forth of His Spirit on all mankind.

Peter quoted the prophet Joel as he stood that day at Pentecost. He confronted the mockers with the word of God spoken through the prophet Joel.

Joel prophesied that God would send forth of His Spirit on all mankind. Joel prophesied further that your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and the young men shall see visions, and old men dream dreams. God used dreams and visions to reveal Himself in the Old Testament.

The apostles at Pentecost were not dreaming or seeing visions, but they were telling of the great things of God. Peter quoted Joel to lay the groundwork for further revelation from God through dreams, visions, and prophecy.

Peter authoritatively applied the words provided by the prophet Joel. That authoritative application of revelation constituted a Word of Knowledge.

Dreams

1. **Last**. When did the last days begin? The last days in the prophetic calendar began at Pentecost, and fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel.

2. **Days**. God marks off time using hours, days, months, epochs, years, generations and ages.

3. **Pour**. God described the Holy Spirit as being poured out at Pentecost upon the apostles.

4. **Spirit**. God eternally exists as three Divine Persons, comprising one God: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.

5. **Prophecy**. Both males and females shall prophesy, beginning at Pentecost.

6. **Visions**. Living holy in the family of God means that we thank God for the visions God gives to people as revelation from Him.

7. **Dreams**. We rejoice today because God provided dreams to people to reveal His will so that we would love Him more.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the words of Joel and his prophecies about revelation during the last days.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering we still live in the last days.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding today because God has revealed the future.**

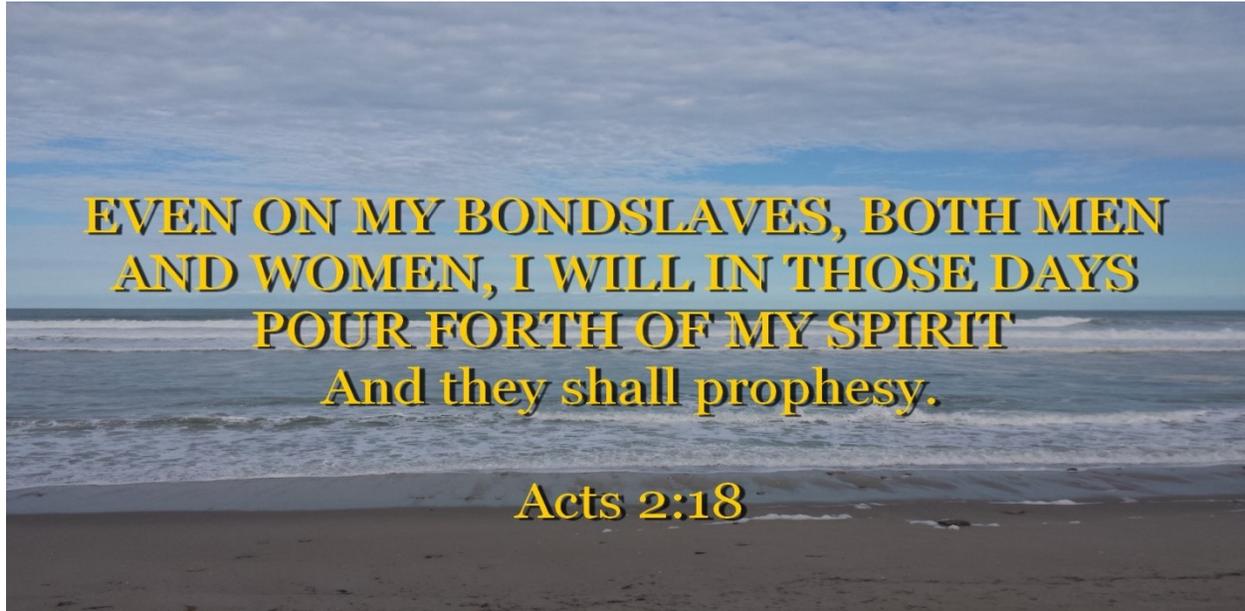
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the prophecy of Joel about the last days. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the prophecies He provided to us?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 44

Bondslaves Today



Upon whom will the Spirit of God be poured out? Joel prophesied that the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon both men and women, the slaves of God.

Joel described a time of restoration by Yahweh. Joel, writing under the inspiration of God, prophesied that Yahweh would pour out His Spirit on all people. Joel left no doubt that he was speaking about males and females. Female prophets were not unknown in Old Testament times. Deborah prophesied during the time of the judges and Anna prophesied in the Temple as she drew near to the baby Jesus.

Peter applied that Joel passage to the apostles at Pentecost. The authoritative application of previous revelation amounts to a Word of Knowledge. In the New Testament, the Spiritual Gift of the Word of Knowledge accompanied at times the Spiritual Gift of the Word of Wisdom which concerned the revelation of mysteries.

Having applied the Joel passage to the apostles, the Holy Spirit had just been poured out upon the apostles. They were the first to prophesy, but men and women would follow them in prophesying.

Prophecy

1. **Slaves**. When the Spirit is poured out upon both men and women, what will happen? They will prophesy, according to what their Master commands them to speak.

2. **Men**. Joel used a Hebrew word to describe male slaves, emphasizing their relationship to their Master.

3. **Women**. Likewise, Joel described female slaves, emphasizing the same relationship to their Master.

4. **Days**. Joel wrote about “those days” when the Lord would pour forth the Spirit. Peter indicated those days began at Pentecost.

5. **Pour**. Just as God pours out His wrath upon His enemies, so also He pours out His Spirit upon His slaves.

6. **They**. Living holy in the family of God means that we know we are living in the last times, inaugurated by the pouring out of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

7. **Prophecy**. We rejoice today because Joel’s prophecy of male and female slaves prophesying has been fulfilled, and more to come.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the prophecy of Joel.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that the slaves of God prophesied.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the prophecies He gave.**

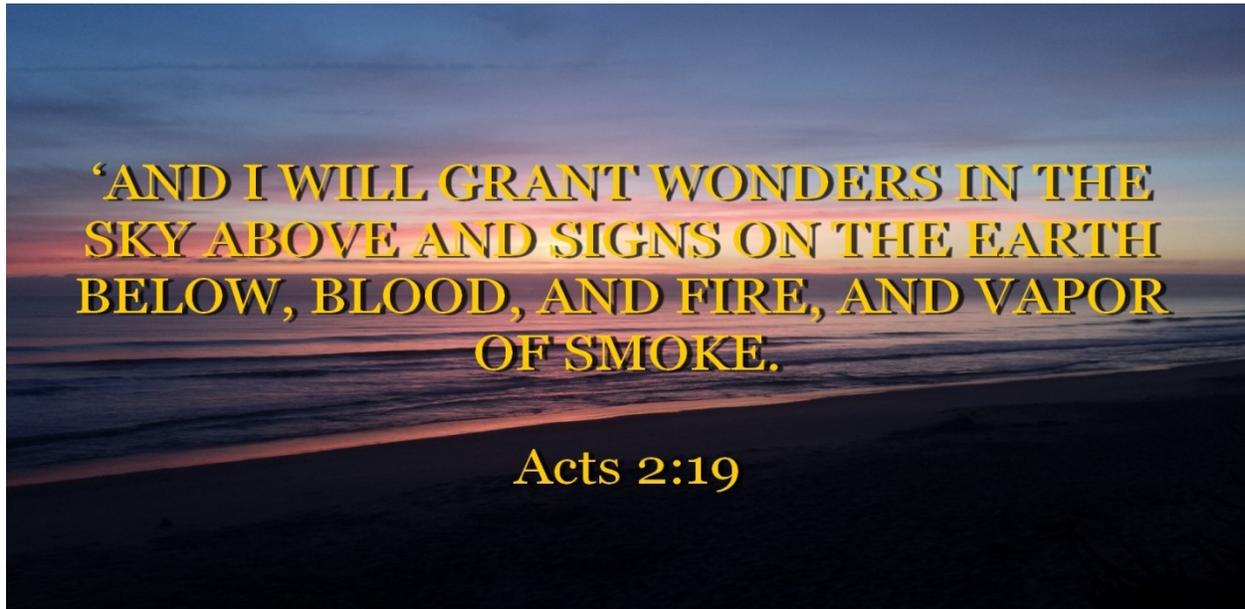
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the men and women who prophesied in His Name. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the prophecies?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 45

Wonders Today



What did Joel prophesy about signs during the last days? Joel prophesied about signs on the earth and wonders in the sky.

Peter confronted the mockers at Pentecost. They were mocking the apostles who spoke in foreign languages.

Peter first argued that it was only the third hour of the day and so they were not drunk, as the mockers alleged. Peter then turned to the Scriptures.

Peter quoted the prophet Joel and authoritatively applied that prophecy to the present events. Peter showed from the prophet Joel that the last days had begun.

Peter indicated that God was about to display wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below. Those wonders and signs would include blood, fire and vapor of smoke.

By quoting the Scripture, Peter brought the authority of God to bear against the mockers. A new age had begun and they were all witnesses to the pouring forth of the Holy Spirit.

Vapor of Smoke

1. **I.** Yahweh spoke in the first person through Joel the prophet.
2. **Grant.** Yahweh would grant wonders and signs.
3. **Wonders.** The wonders of God display His great powers and supernatural ways.
4. **Sky.** God will display wonders in the sky above.
5. **Signs.** Signs confirm supernaturally the authenticity of the prophet or other slave of God.
6. **Earth.** Living holy in the family of God means that God displayed signs on the earth, like speaking in foreign languages, as a sign to unbelievers.
7. **Blood, Fire, Vapor.** We rejoice today because God will pour forth His Spirit, with wonders and signs consisting of blood, fire and vapor.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering wonders and signs have been and will be in the sky and on earth.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejoicing in all the things God does to proclaim His glory.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His works of power.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God poured forth His Spirit and showed those signs and wonders. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for His signs and wonders?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 46

Darkness Today



What wonders did Joel prophesy about? Joel prophesied that the sun would be turned into darkness and the moon into blood.

Joel described a time where great changes would take place on earth. God would cause those changes to display His glory and to proclaim Jesus to the nations as Savior.

Peter quoted Joel to show that that prophecy was being fulfilled at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit filled Peter and he perfectly applied God’s word to the present circumstances. The Spiritual Gift of the Word of Knowledge describes God’s perfect application of previous revelation to the present time. Therefore, when Peter applied the prophecy of Joel to the events at Pentecost and beyond, the Holy Spirit produced in him a Word of Knowledge.

Pentecost marked the moment when the prophecy of Jesus concerning baptism with the Holy Spirit was fulfilled. The Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles, filling them instantaneously. As Jesus prophesied, previously the Holy Spirit had been with them, but after Pentecost, the Holy Spirit

would be in them permanently. Jesus baptized the apostles with the Holy Spirit. Today Jesus baptizes each believer with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation.

Day of the Lord

1. **Sun**. What did Joel prophesy about the sun? Joel prophesied that the sun would be darkened. Wonders would take place in the sky.

2. **Moon**. Likewise, the moon would be turned to blood.

3. **Darkness**. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon will be turned into blood. Both wonders describe atmospheric changes, except that the sun goes through cycles of illumination even now. Apparently, they may be far more pronounced in the future.

4. **Great**. Joel focused upon the great day. The earth and its inhabitants have languished under sinful domination, but that will change with a great day.

5. **Glorious**. Joel also described the glorious day. God surrounds Himself with glory, for God Himself is glorious. We look forward to the great and glorious day of Yahweh.

6. **Day**. Living holy in the family of God means that God has prepared a day where His glory shall shine and His greatness will be revealed at just the right time.

7. **Yahweh**. We rejoice today because Yahweh will return on the great and glorious day of Yahweh.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the prophecy of Joel concerning the sun and the moon and the great and glorious day of Yahweh.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the last days began at Pentecost and we look forward to the day of Yahweh.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another with a bright future that lies before us in Yahweh.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the day of Yahweh. Will you live holy in the family of God today by looking forward to the day of Yahweh, a great and glorious time?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 47

Everyone Today



Is there any hope for mankind? Joel prophesied that whoever calls on the Name of Yahweh will be saved.

Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. God loves this world and its inhabitants, because He created them. All creation longs for the day of redemption.

Peter ended his quotation of Joel with a call for salvation. Peter did not just recite the future as a warning, but also as an invitation to be ready for the great and glorious day of Yahweh.

The Holy Spirit empowered Peter to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a crowd amazed and perplexed by the events they witnessed. While the mockers claimed the apostles were drunk, many people in the crowd knew better because they heard the apostle speaking in their own foreign language.

Many people in the crowd witnessed the great power of God on display. But the display was not enough in itself, because the crowd needed to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ presented to them very clearly. Peter stood up, at

the direction of the Holy Spirit, and presented the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the crowd.

Saved

1. **Shall**. How can people be ready for the great and glorious day of Yahweh? By calling on the Name of the Lord Jesus for salvation.

2. **Everyone**. Peter ended his quotation of Joel with Joel's promise that everyone who calls on the Name of Yahweh will be saved.

3. **Calls**. In the Old Testament, the term "calls upon Yahweh" means to call upon the Name of Yahweh for salvation through faith.

4. **Who**. The invitation to salvation applies to whoever will call upon the Name of Yahweh for salvation.

5. **Name**. In the Old Testament, names were very important. The Name of Yahweh symbolized the entire Person and Works of Yahweh.

6. **Yahweh**. Living holy in the family of God means that we delight in our salvation because we called upon the Name of Yahweh for salvation by faith.

7. **Saved**. We rejoice today because Jesus (Yahweh) saved us from our sins by grace through faith, just as Joel prophesied.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering everyone who calls on the Name of Yahweh will be saved.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejoicing in our salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for drawing us to Himself by calling upon His Name for salvation.**

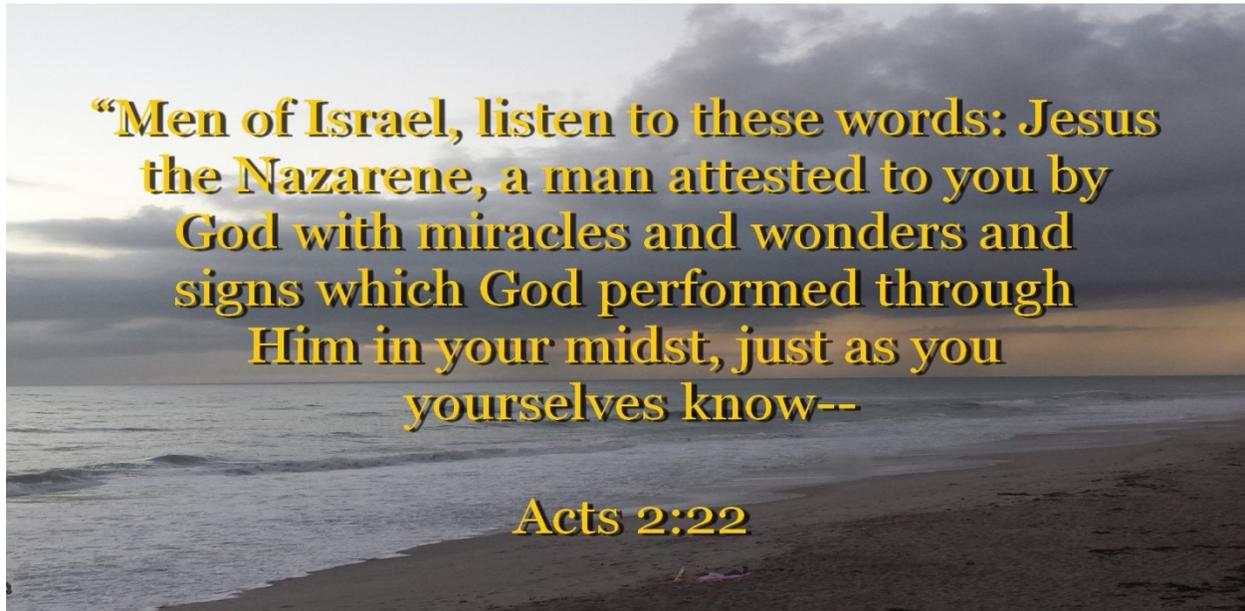
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by enjoying our salvation received by calling upon the Name of Yahweh. Will you live holy in the family of God today by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and urging people to call upon the Name of Yahweh?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 48

Listen Today



How did God attest to Jesus Christ the Nazarene? God attested to Him with miracles and wonders and signs.

As Peter preached at Pentecost, he reviewed God’s activity related to Jesus Christ the Nazarene. Peter started with a bold statement that the crowd knew that God attested to Jesus Christ with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in their midst.

Peter preached with the power the Holy Spirit. Peter knew that the crowd had seen great signs and wonders and miracles performed through Jesus Christ. Knowing about the miracles was not enough for the crowd. The crowd needed to take the further step of saving faith in Jesus Christ.

Moving the crowd from knowing about Jesus Christ to knowing Jesus as Savior was a work of the Holy Spirit. Knowing all the facts about Jesus does not equate to salvation. The crowd standing before Peter was guilty of the blood of Jesus Christ.

We are all guilty of the blood of Jesus Christ, because He died for sinners like us. Peter applied conviction to the crowd about their actions toward Jesus.

In Your Midst

1. **Men**. How did Peter reach out to the crowd? Peter reminded them of what they saw in Jesus Christ.
2. **Israel**. Peter addressed them as the men of Israel. Although drawn from different countries, they were all men of Israel.
3. **Listen**. Peter commanded them to listen to him.
4. **Jesus**. He directed their attention to Jesus.
5. **Attested**. God attested to Jesus and His deity with miracles and wonders and signs.
6. **God**. Living holy in the family of God means that we know Jesus has always been God and God attested to the deity of Jesus Christ and that God the Father sent Jesus to be the Savior of the world.
7. **Know**. We rejoice today because of our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior. By reading the Bible and believing what it says, we too know about Jesus and the mighty things that God did through Jesus.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the ways God attested to Jesus Christ as Savior and God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by urging people to review the evidence concerning Jesus and believe in Him as Savior.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another to love Jesus more because Jesus really was, and is, and always will be the living God, our Savior.**

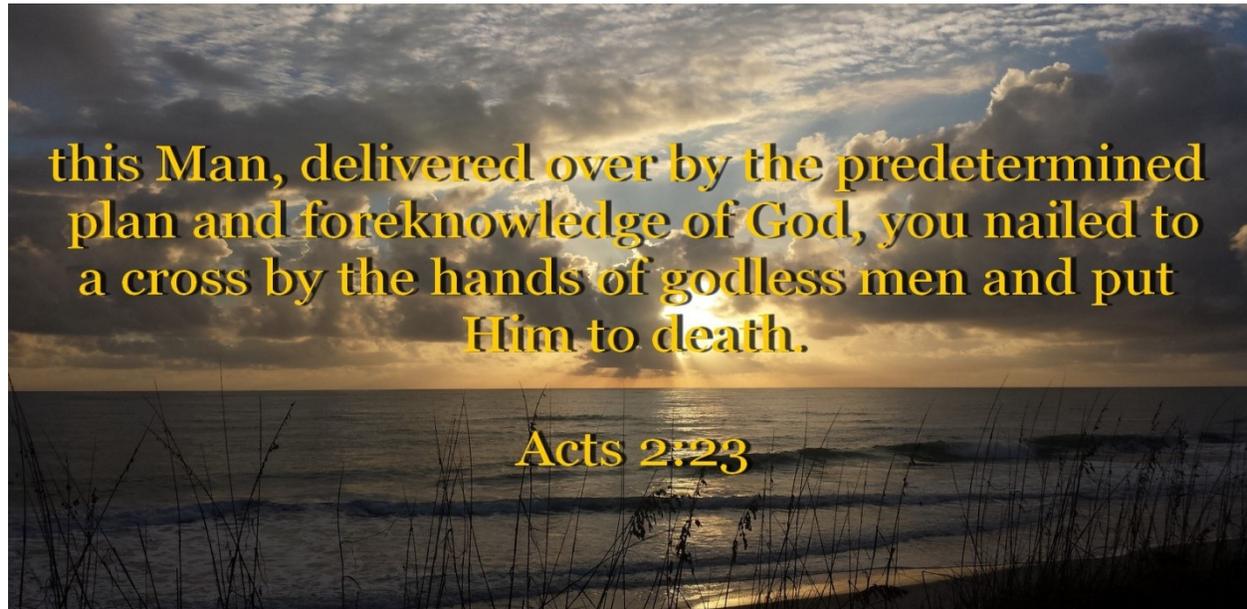
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by sharing with others the proof that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. Will you live holy in the family of God today by urging people to review the evidence provided by God concerning Jesus Christ and place their faith in Him for salvation?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 49

Predetermined Today



Who nailed Jesus to the cross? The crowd before Peter nailed Jesus to the cross.

As to Peter applied the prophecy of Joel to the age beginning that day of Pentecost, he then linked the miracles and wonders and signs that God used to attest to Jesus Christ as Savior and God.

Peter was not interested in merely proving that Jesus was God and Savior. That proof had already been provided and was well known. Peter wanted to present salvation as a free gift to the crowd standing before him, the men of Israel.

Peter pierced the hearts of the crowd by pointing out that they nailed Jesus the Nazarene to a cross. They were responsible for the death of Jesus, the man attested by God to be the Savior of Israel and the entire world.

Peter declared that all those things happened according to the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God. Jesus was not taken by surprise by any of those events. Peter indicated that the crowd, the men of

Israel, nailed Jesus to the cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

Godless Men

1. **Man**. Peter described Jesus the Nazarene as this Man.
2. **Delivered**. The men of Israel standing before Peter as a crowd delivered Jesus to death.
3. **Plan**. As always, the events unfurled according to the plan of God.
4. **Foreknowledge**. Because God knows all things, God knew the future and planned accordingly.
5. **God**. The word of God and the plans of God never fail, but all things work together for good for those who are called according to His purpose.
6. **Nailed**. Living holy in the family of God means that we know Jesus was nailed to the cross by the hands of ungodly men, but the crowd nailed Jesus to the cross by the hands of those ungodly men, and our hands today are just as guilty as those hands.
7. **Death**. We rejoice today because Jesus suffered the agony of the cross so that we would have the joy of eternal life because of His death.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by reminding people that they nailed Jesus to the cross with their sins.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by urging people to confront their sinfulness and look to Jesus Christ by faith for salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another to share our faith in Jesus the Nazarene, the Man we all nailed to the cross.**

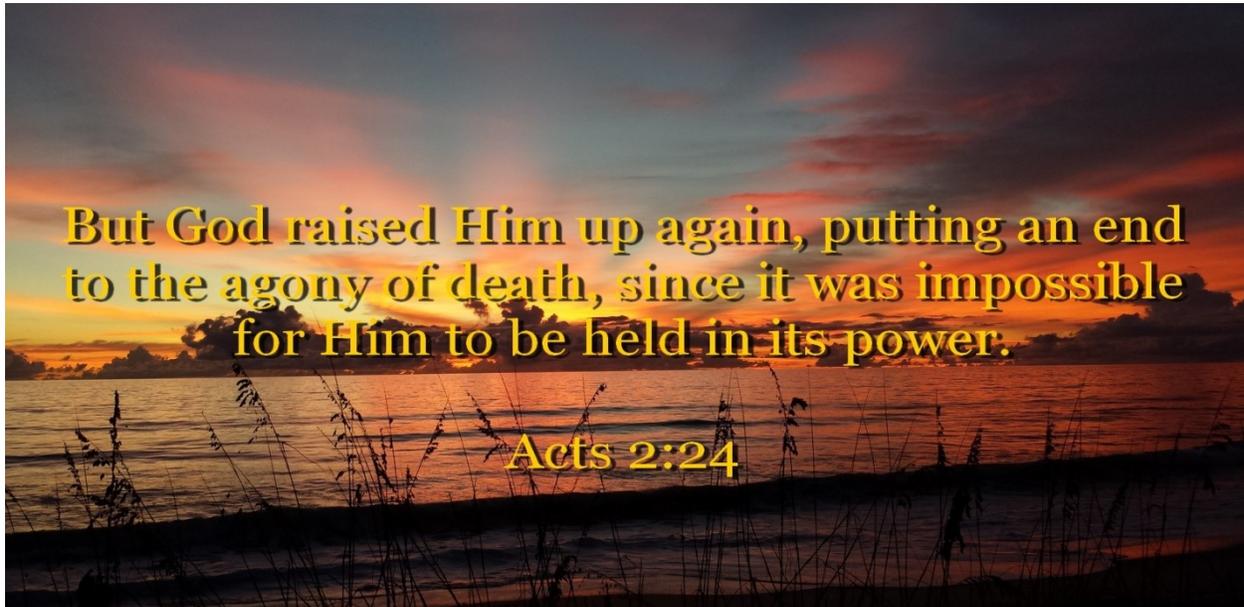
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by confronting people with their responsibility for nailing Jesus to the cross. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping Jesus for His great forgiveness and wonderful love for sinners who nailed Him to the cross?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 50

Raised Today



What happened to Jesus Christ after He was crucified? God raised him from the dead.

Peter preached to the crowd that the men of Israel were responsible for killing Jesus the Nazarene. Peter recounted the miracles and wonders and signs that God performed to attest that Jesus was God in the flesh and the Savior.

Peter then turned to the resurrection of Jesus. He was an eyewitness of the resurrection. God raised Jesus from the dead, and put an end to the agony of death. Jesus gives eternal life and at the moment the physical body dies, the saint goes to Paradise to be with Jesus. The resurrection of Jesus provides proof and assurance that the power of death has been removed forever for all those who trust Jesus as Savior. The agony of death has been removed forever by Jesus and His resurrection.

Death could not possibly hold Jesus in its power. As eternal God, Jesus has absolute power over life and death at all times. Spiritual death involves separation from God and God cannot be separated from Himself. Humans can be separated from God through spiritual death and so we need a Savior, Jesus Christ the Righteous.

Agony of Death

1. **God**. Jesus Christ was always God and will always be God.
2. **Raised**. God raised Jesus from the dead.
3. **End**. God put an end to death and its agony.
4. **Agony**. Physical death includes pain when the human body dies. Spiritual death means separation from God for eternity. The agony of death involves physical pain. Jesus also suffered in the flesh to pay the debt of sin we all incurred, except for Him. The wrath of God was poured out upon Jesus. Christ died for us and paid the death penalty for us.
5. **Impossible**. Death could not possibly hold Jesus, the Living One, in its power.
6. **Held**. Living holy in the family of God means that we have been rescued from the power of death once and for all by the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
7. **Power**. We rejoice today because Jesus has conquered the power of sin and death for each of us by giving His life on the cross and being resurrected by God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God for breaking the power of sin and death once and for all.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another with the truth that death could never hold Jesus in its power and so, as saints, we no longer fear death.**

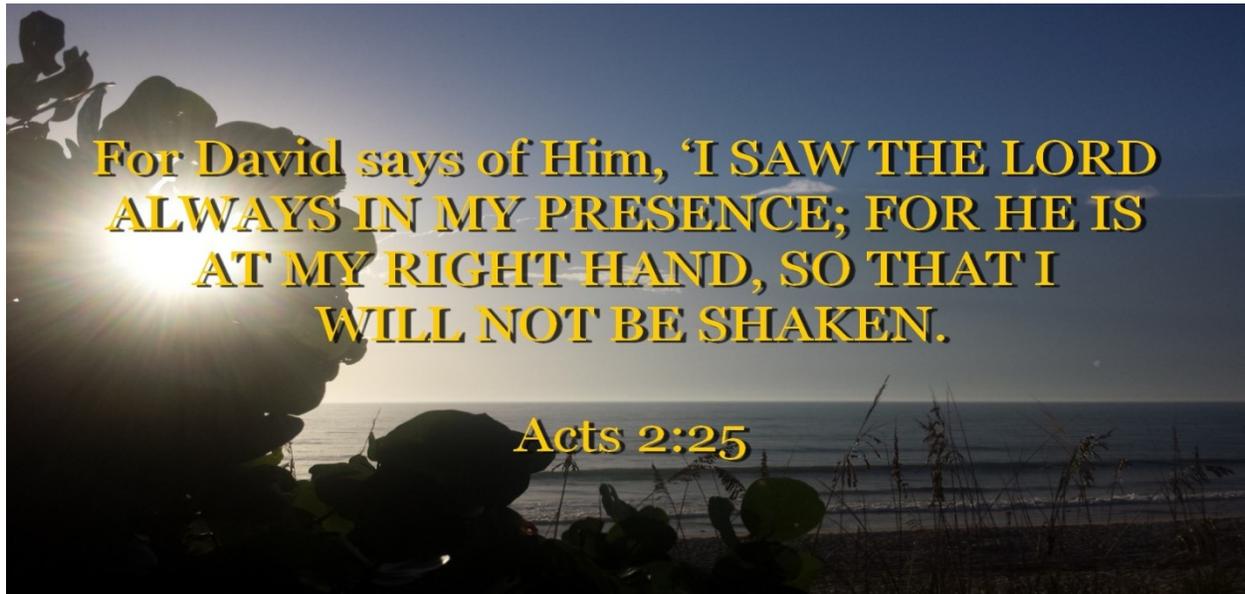
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by delighting in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that we no longer fear death because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 51

David Says Today



What did David see? David saw Yahweh always in his presence.

Peter not only quoted the prophet Joel, but he also quoted David the King of Israel. David went through many difficult periods where his life was constantly in danger. Saul tried to kill David many times and later the children of David rebelled against him. David also faced enemies and fought many battles so that he killed his ten thousands.

David fought with the confidence that Yahweh was always at his side. Yahweh was always at the right hand of David, the place of strength. Because Yahweh was always at his right hand, he was not shaken.

David made the point that the presence of Yahweh changed everything. David believed that Yahweh was present with him. That faith was not empty because Yahweh was truly present with him at all times.

Peter cited David to show that Yahweh's presence always changes everything. Peter will link up Yahweh, a title for God, with Jesus Christ. Jesus was Yahweh in the flesh. Just as Yahweh was always with David, so also

Yahweh will always be present with the saints. They will not be shaken because Yahweh took flesh, dwelt among men, died on the cross, was buried and resurrected to redeem us from our sins and to guarantee His presence with us forever.

Right Hand

1. **Yahweh**. Who was Yahweh? Yahweh was the covenant God of Israel, the God of David.

2. **Always**. David knew that Yahweh was always in his presence.

3. **My**. David had a personal relationship with Yahweh, by faith knowing that Yahweh was always present with him.

4. **Presence**. Kings often controlled access to their presence. Having an audience with the king in person was a big deal. David described Yahweh as in his presence. Of course, David knew that being accepted into the presence of Yahweh was the greatest honor. Jude promised that every believer would stand in the presence of the glory of God blameless and with great joy.

5. **Hand**. The right hand in the Old Testament symbolized power and authority to rule. As David ruled with his right hand, Yahweh was present there directing David and his heart to rule with his hand to the glory of God.

6. **I**. Living holy in the family of God means that we know, like David, but Yahweh is in our presence too and we will not be shaken.

7. **Shaken**. We rejoice today because we will not be shaken because the Lord Jesus Christ, Yahweh Himself, abides with us always and we are always in His presence.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Yahweh is always in our presence.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by believing that we will not be shaken because Yahweh is always at our right hand.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another that Yahweh, the Lord Jesus Christ, abides with us always so that we are never shaken.**

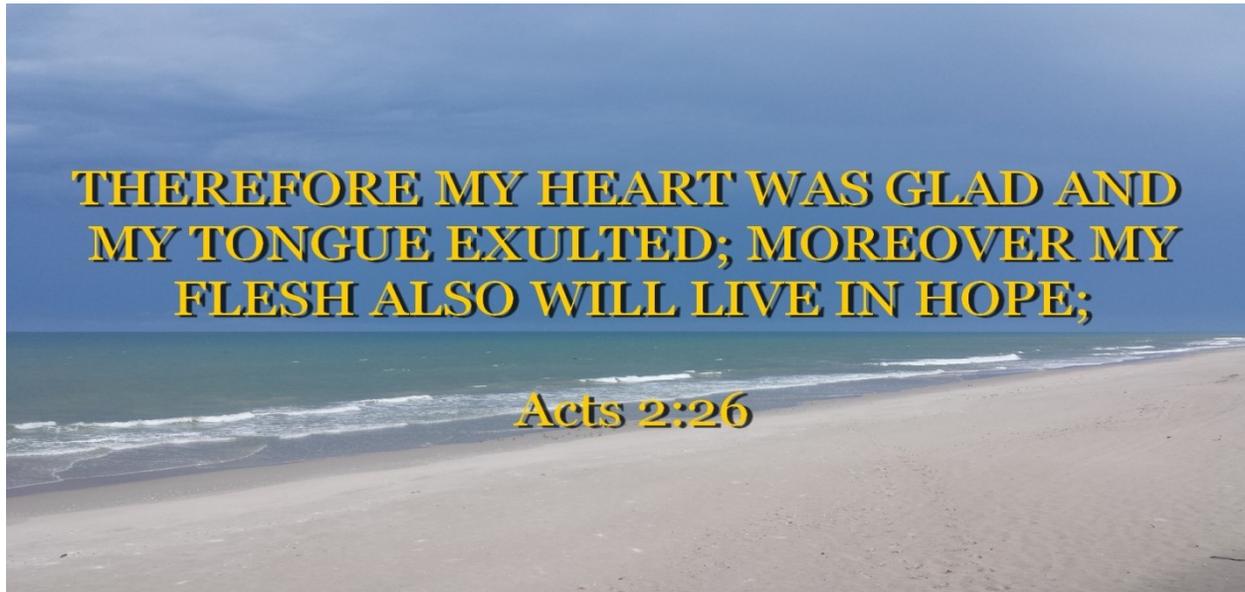
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus because He is always at our right hand. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for His presence at your right hand?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 52

Glad Today



What made David's heart glad? Yahweh's presence with David made David's heart glad.

Many people cannot remember the last time their hearts were glad. David remembered that Yahweh's presence made him glad. In fact, David's tongue exulted, meaning it was really joyful.

Spiritually, David was filled with gladness and his tongue exulted. David was a happy person to be around. When we focus upon the presence of Yahweh in our lives, we too will be filled with gladness and our tongue will exult.

David also said his flesh will live in hope. That hope centers upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The flesh of Jesus Christ died on the cross, because he was truly man and clothed with flesh just like us. His body bled and died after being bruised and battered and marred more than any man.

Because Jesus was raised from the dead and His body glorified, we have hope that our flesh will be raised incorruptible, imperishable, and

immortal. We will receive glorified bodies just like Jesus at the Clouds Resurrection in the future. We look forward to that day with gladness and exultation.

Live in Hope

1. **Therefore**. Therefore always signals a relationship to the previous verses. Often the term “therefore” precedes a conclusion based upon the previous verses.

2. **My**. Because Yahweh was present with David always, the presence of Yahweh deeply affected David continually.

3. **Heart**. David’s heart was changed by Yahweh’s constant presence.

4. **Glad**. David’s heart was glad because of Yahweh’s constant presence.

5. **Heart**. Notice the gladness resides in the heart and arises from the presence of Yahweh.

6. **Flesh**. Living holy in the family of God means that our flesh has hope of resurrection, just as David described thousands of years ago.

7. **Hope**. We rejoice today because our hope for our flesh rests upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ in bodily form. Because Jesus triumphed over death and His body was raised imperishable, immortal and glorious, so He will also resurrect us at the Clouds Resurrection.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that our gladness and hope are in Yahweh, Jesus Christ our Lord.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by delighting in Jesus who brings hope and gladness into our lives by His presence.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by reminding one another of the gladness and hope we have in Jesus Christ, looking forward to the Clouds Resurrection.**

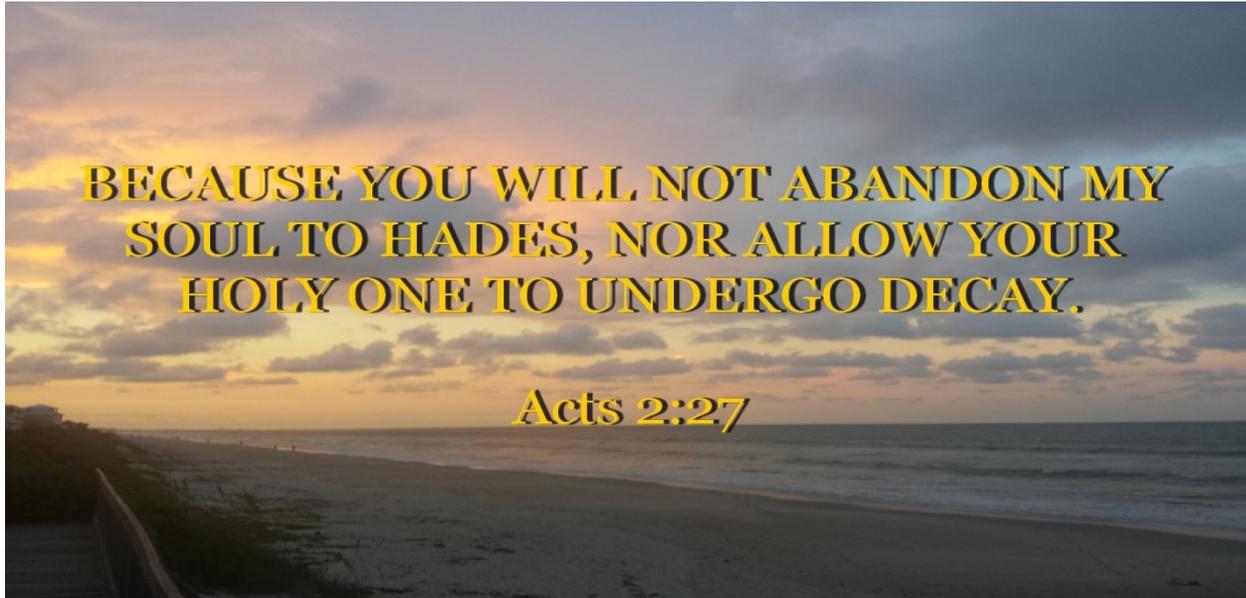
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by feeling gladness in our heart and hope in our flesh because of Jesus Christ our Lord. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping Jesus for His presence in our lives?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 53

Soul Today



What happens to the soul of a saint at death? Yahweh will never abandon the souls of saints to Hades.

David said his flesh would live in hope. He explained further that he was confident Yahweh would not abandon his soul to Hades. In the Old Testament, Sheol was the place of death and misery. Old Testament saints never went to Sheol after death, but their bodies decayed in Sheol. Their spirits and souls went straight to Paradise. Therefore, David was confident that his soul would never go to Hades, even if his flesh decayed in Sheol.

The Hebrew term for abandon means to separate from or forsake. David understood that his body would be entombed and decay. He also understood that his soul would not decay and would never go to Sheol. When Jesus said that we should fear God who has the power to destroy both body and soul in hell, we should keep in mind that distinction between body and soul. Our bodies decay after death, awaiting glorious resurrection at the Clouds Resurrection. Our souls, however, leave our bodies at death and go straight to Paradise. Remember the distinction between our body and soul

that Jesus drew. Unbelievers at the moment of death go body and soul to Hades, awaiting the Day of Judgment and condemnation to the Lake of Fire.

Decay

1. **Because**. David's hope rested upon his confidence that Yahweh would not abandon his soul to Hades.

2. **You**. David spoke of Yahweh as You, meaning he had a personal relationship with Yahweh.

3. **Abandon**. David was confident that Yahweh would not forsake his soul to Sheol or Hades in the New Testament.

4. **Soul**. David knew that his soul continued after death and that his soul would be with Yahweh even after death.

5. **Hades**. In the New Testament, we know that no saints ever go to Hades. Their bodies may decay in the ground. Unbelievers go body and soul to Hades at the moment of death on earth.

6. **Holy One**. Living holy in the family of God means that we know that David prophesied about the Holy One, Jesus Christ (Yahweh).

7. **Decay**. We rejoice today because Jesus never underwent decay in body or soul.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God will never abandon our souls to Hades.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus, the Holy One of Yahweh, never undergoing decay.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His power over Hades, death and all flesh.**

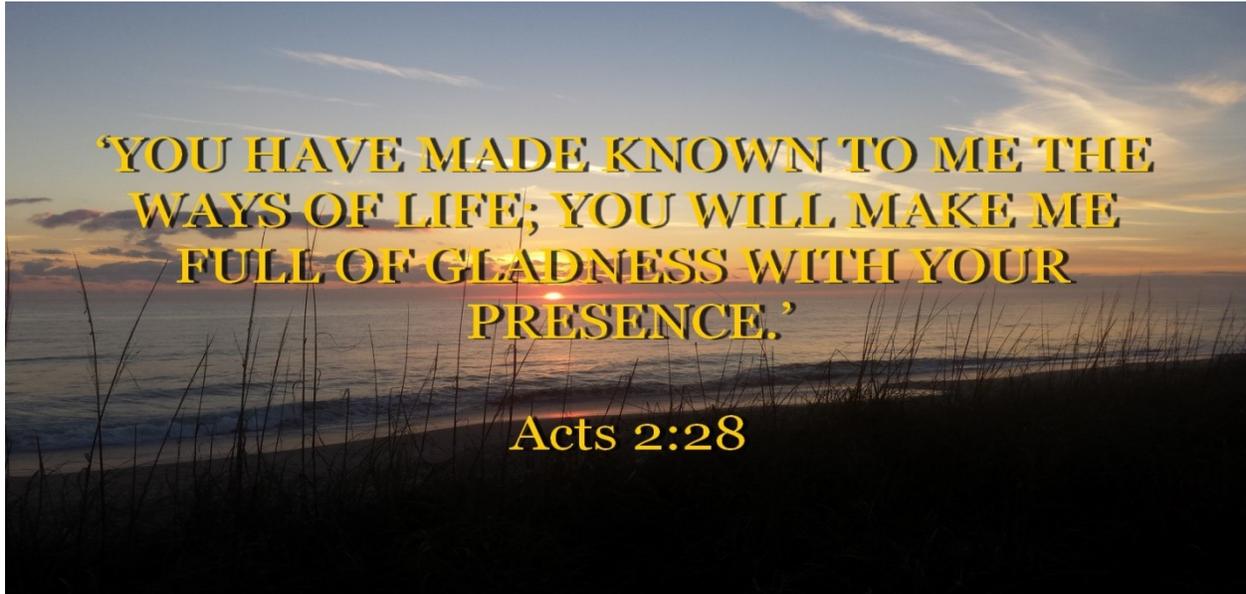
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus, the Holy One, never underwent decay. Will you live holy in the family of God today by loving Jesus more because of his continual presence with you because He never decayed?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 54

Known Today



How did David learn about the ways of life? Yahweh made known to David the ways of life.

God said that King David was a man after His own heart. David faced many hardships and made many difficult choices. He was chased through the wilderness by an army and clashed frequently with enemies. David wrote Psalms about how God always sustained him through battle after battle.

The women were singing about David killing his 10,000s. He was known as a bloody man. Even so, he was a man who knew Yahweh. David said that Yahweh strengthened his feet so that he would not slip and trained his fingers for war.

David found full gladness in the presence of Yahweh. David knew that Yahweh was continually at his right hand and provided strength and guidance. As he walked the ways of life, he walked them with Yahweh.

David contrasted the paths of life he had learned with the full gladness of the presence of Yahweh in the future. David knew that Yahweh had chosen him to be king and empowered him to rule well.

Gladness

1. **You**. What did David know about Yahweh? David had a personal relationship with Yahweh and thought of Yahweh as always being present.
2. **Known**. David knew that Yahweh had shown him the paths of life.
3. **Me**. By writing about God's great deliverance and presence in his life, David talked about himself as a beneficiary of God's goodness.
4. **Ways**. David traveled many paths along various ways during his battles with enemies foreign and domestic. He learned the ways of life from Yahweh.
5. **Life**. In many ways David was a man of death, but Yahweh taught him about the paths of life.
6. **Glad**. Living holy in the family of God means that we look forward with full gladness to being in the presence of Yahweh for all eternity.
7. **Presence**. We rejoice today because we understand with David the full gladness of the presence of Yahweh in our lives.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by learning more about the ways of life from Yahweh.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for the full gladness we will have in the presence of Yahweh for all eternity.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging each other to walk in the ways of life and look forward to the full gladness we will have in the presence of Yahweh for all eternity.**

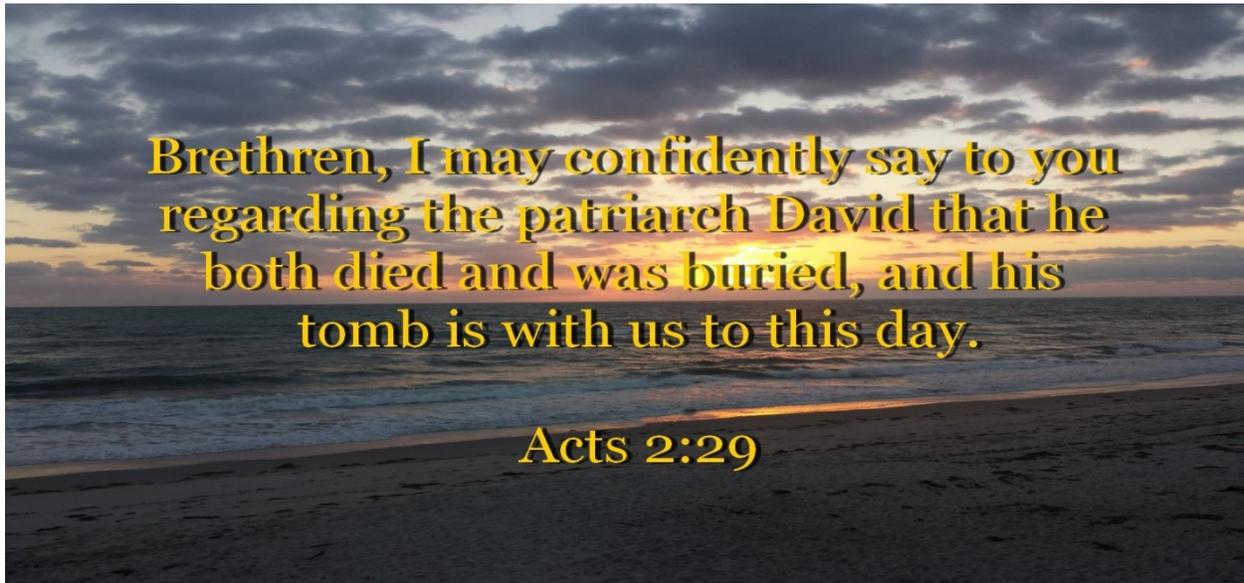
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by walking in the paths of life. Will you live holy in the family of God today by enjoying the full gladness of the presence of Yahweh in your life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 55

Confidently Today



Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

Acts 2:29

What happened to David's body? David's body underwent decay after his death.

As Peter preached at Pentecost, Peter quoted David saying that the Holy One of Yahweh will never undergo decay. In contrast, Peter reminded the crowd that David's tomb was with them and his body had undergone decay.

David also recollected that Yahweh had made known to David the ways of life. Knowing the ways of life did not mean for David an absence of sin. David sinned with Bathsheba and then murdered her husband by the hands of his men. David also numbered the armies of Israel and incurred severe punishment. David knew about the kindness and severity of God.

David also made it plain that he looked forward to a future of full gladness with the presence of Yahweh. The God David served was not some absent or distant deity, but his personal friend who stayed with him always.

As David walked the ways of life, he did so in the presence of Yahweh with full gladness. People often walk through life without a clue of the ways

of life revealed by Yahweh. They do so to their own destruction. Remember that Jesus said that He was the way and the truth and the life.

Buried

1. **Brethren**. Peter addressed the men of Israel, who were familiar with King David.

2. **Confidently**. Peter used the word “confidently” to describe his knowledge that David had died and was buried.

3. **David**. David was the first great King of Israel, the successor to the failed King Saul.

4. **Died**. David died centuries before Peter was preaching.

5. **Buried**. David was buried.

6. **Tomb**. Living holy in the family of God means that saints die and are buried in tombs, but we know that God never abandons their souls to Hades because they go to be with Jesus in Paradise at death.

7. **Day**. We rejoice today because while the tombs of saints remain on earth to this day, the new day is coming when Jesus will resurrect the saints.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the bodies of saints remain on earth.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that the souls and spirits of saints are in Paradise with Jesus at the moment of death.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus for triumphing over death and His body never decayed and cannot be found in any tomb to this day.**

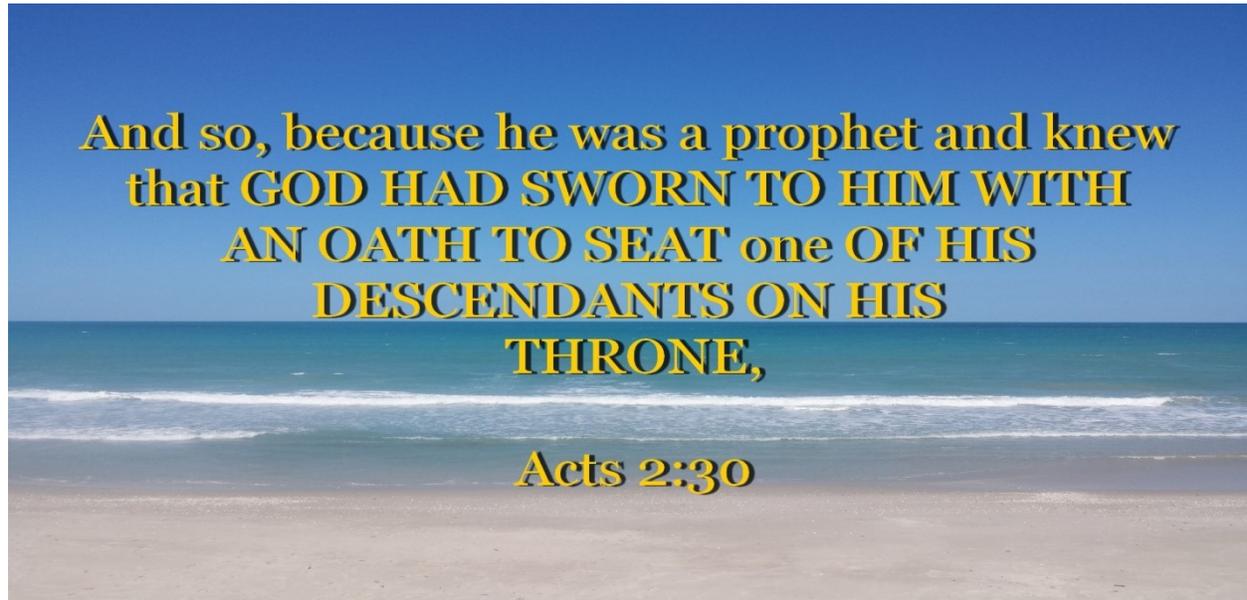
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus for the resurrection power of God at work in Him and in us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for our resurrection at just the right time?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 56

Prophet Today



Was David a prophet? Yes, David was a prophet and received revelation from God.

One of the revelations David received from God was that God had sworn to him with an oath to see one of his descendents on his throne. David's son Solomon reigned after David and built a Temple for God in Jerusalem. Solomon's son, Rehoboam, became king after Solomon, but his demands divided the kingdom with the 10 northern tribes revolting against his rule. The twelve tribes were divided into 10 tribes in the north, with their capital at Samaria, known as Israel. The two southern tribes, consisting of Benjamin and Judah, with its capital in Jerusalem, was known as Judea.

The prophecy of God remained true that God would see one of his descendents on the throne of David, even though later generations of David's physical lineage only reigned two tribes in the south. The greater fulfillment of the promise to David was founded upon the Lord Jesus Christ, a physical descendent of David. David's prophecy from God pointed towards the Lord Jesus sitting on the throne of David during the Millennial Kingdom.

Throne

1. **Because**. What revelation to David was received from God? David received the revelation, sworn with an oath, that one of his descendants would sit upon his throne.

2. **Prophet**. Peter knew that David was a prophet.

3. **Knew**. Peter knew that David was a prophet through reading the Scriptures David wrote under the inspiration of God.

4. **God**. The God of David was the same God of the New Testament and His promises applied to Israel.

5. **Sworn**. God had sworn with an oath, but God always keeps His word oath or no oath.

6. **Descendants**. Living holy in the family of God means that one of the descendants of David would fulfill that prophecy and sit on the throne of David.

7. **Throne**. We rejoice today because the Lord Jesus Christ really will sit on the throne of David when He returns to earth to reign as king during the millennium.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the prophecy of David.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the prophecy of David applies even today to the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus Christ as the coming King of all the earth.**

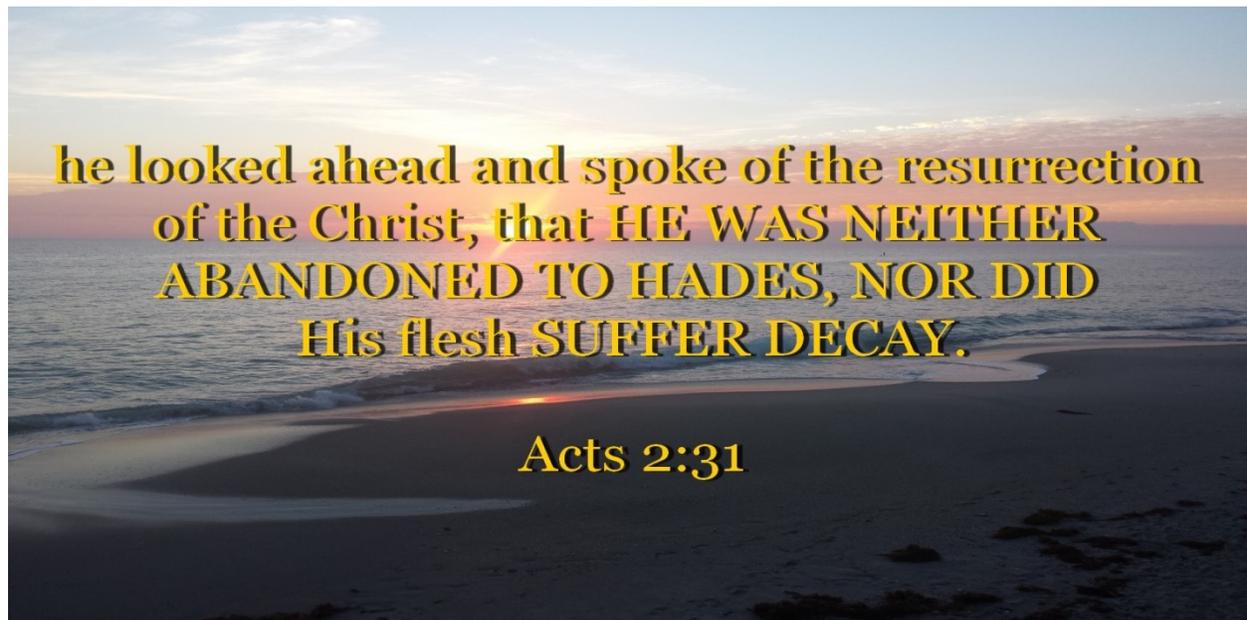
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping King Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by looking forward to the day where Jesus will return to earth and reign as king?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 57

Resurrection Today



When David looked into the future, what did he see? David saw the resurrection of Christ.

David specifically prophesied that Christ was neither abandoned to Hades nor did his flesh suffer the decay. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Peter quoted David to show that Jesus was the Christ. Part of that proof was that the body of Jesus did not undergo decay after He was crucified and placed into a tomb. David had prophesied previously that the body of Messiah would not undergo decay. Therefore, Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of David regarding Messiah.

David also prophesied that God would not abandon Christ to Hades. Jesus went to Paradise when He died on the cross. The soul of Jesus was not abandoned to Hades. Therefore, Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of David regarding the Christ.

Jesus said that people should fear God who has the power to destroy body and soul in hell. Jesus drew a distinction there between body and soul.

At the moment an Old Testament saint died, his body could go to Sheol and undergo decay. The soul, however, went straight to Paradise to be with Jesus.

Decay

1. **He**. He referred to David.
2. **Looked**. David looked ahead as part of the revelation from God.
3. **Resurrection**. David spoke about the resurrection of Jesus Christ, knowing that Jesus would not be abandoned to Hades and His soul would not undergo decay.
4. **Abandon**. The term “abandon” may also be translated forsaken.
5. **Hades**. David saw that Jesus would not be forsaken to Hades, knowing that Jesus would be resurrected and His flesh would not undergo decay. In the New Testament, no saints go to Hades.
6. **Flesh**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that David spoke about Jesus, centuries before His birth, knowing that the flesh of Jesus would not undergo decay.
7. **Decay**. We rejoice today because God revealed to David that Jesus would sit on His throne, and that He would be resurrected, and His flesh would not undergo decay.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the prophecy of David looking forward to Jesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by looking forward to the return of Jesus to sit on the throne of David, because Jesus was resurrected and His flesh did not undergo decay.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another to make every day count as we look forward to the day Jesus sits upon the throne of David.**

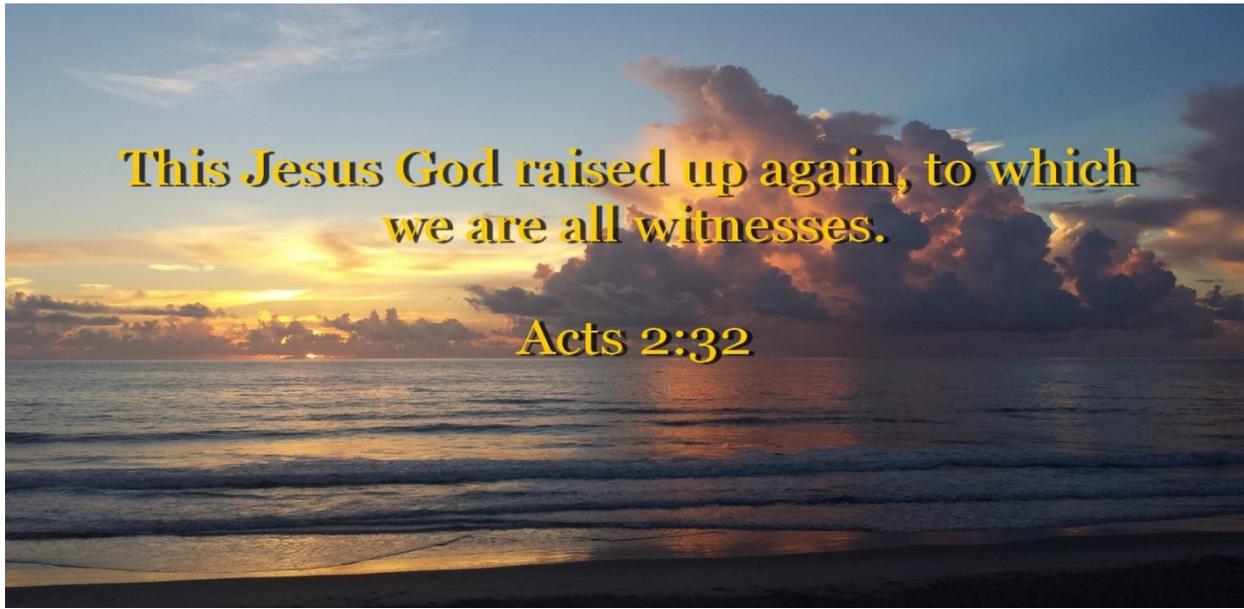
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Jesus as the King coming to sit on David's throne. Will you live holy in the family of God today by loving Jesus for keeping His promises to David and everyone else?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 58

Raised Today



Who witnessed Jesus being raised up again? Peter said they were all witnesses.

Peter certainly included all the apostles in the statement that they all had witnessed Jesus being raised up. Jesus appeared to more than 500 people at one time in His glorified body.

By citing David, Peter linked up the prophecy of the Old Testament with the resurrection of Christ. The resurrection of Jesus Christ has more historical support than any other event from that time. The abundance and diversity of witnesses to the resurrection of Christ support the testimony that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead by God.

Peter, like all the apostles, emphasized the resurrection of Christ. If Christ has not been raised from the dead, then we are all in our sins and our faith is empty. Just as David prophesied centuries before, Jesus, indeed, was raised from the dead. Because He lives as the resurrected Christ, Jesus will sit on the throne of David and reign upon the earth from Jerusalem one day.

Peter also emphasized the presence of the witnesses to the resurrection of Christ. Peter went beyond merely witnessing the resurrection of Christ by showing that God raised Jesus from the dead. Because God raised Jesus from the dead, the people immediately knew that Jesus was the Christ that had God's blessing at all times. Crucifying Jesus incurred the death penalty for everyone.

Witnesses

1. **Jesus**. Peter focused his preaching upon Jesus Christ.
2. **God**. Peter proclaimed that God raised Jesus from the dead, showing that Jesus acted at all times with God's blessing and those people who crucified Jesus incurred God's wrath.
3. **Raised**. Having been crucified at the hands of sinners, God raised Jesus from the dead to furnish proof to all men that Jesus was God in the flesh and Savior of the world.
4. **Up**. God raised Jesus up from the dead and presented Him alive before many witnesses.
5. **We**. Peter used the term "we" to offer further proof that some of the eyewitnesses of the resurrection of Christ were present.
6. **All**. Living holy in the family of God means that we are all witnesses of the resurrection of Christ, but not yet eyewitnesses until we see Him face-to-face.
7. **Witnesses**. We rejoice today because the eyewitnesses fulfilled the ministry God gave to them and we have benefitted from that ministry by receiving the faith handed down once for all to the saints.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the testimony of Peter and the other eyewitnesses to the resurrection of Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by joining in with Peter and the other eyewitnesses in proclaiming that God raised Jesus from the dead.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving Jesus because God raised Him from the dead and we have all received of His grace and mercy and look forward to His return.**

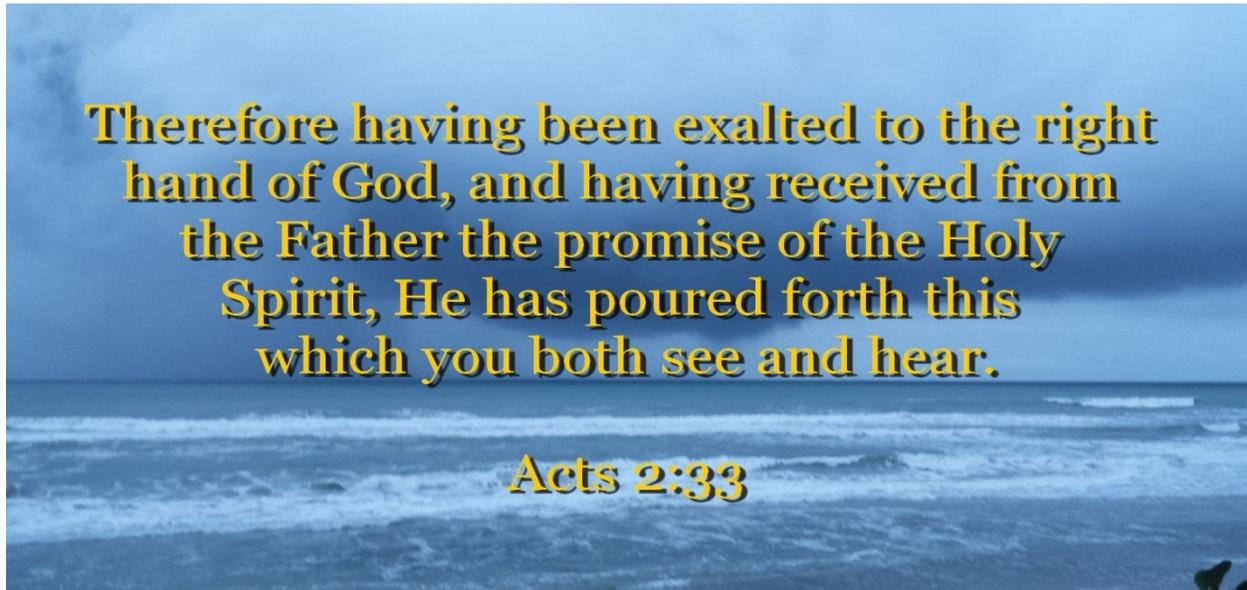
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by proclaiming Jesus as the risen Savior. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming Jesus as the risen Savior of the world?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 59

Exalted Today



Where is Jesus today? After Jesus ascended, he was exalted to the right hand of God.

Before Jesus was crucified, Jesus prophesied that the Father would send the Holy Spirit and His Name. Peter has provided more details here. Peter revealed that having been exalted, Jesus received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit. Jesus communicated that promise to the apostles before His death. After He was exalted to the right hand of the Father, that promise was fulfilled when He received the promise from the Father. Having received the promise from the Father regarding the Holy Spirit, Jesus then poured forth the Holy Spirit Whom the crowd has seen and heard.

Peter provided the spiritual foundations for the crowd so that they can understand that the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the apostles. They had seen and heard the Holy Spirit but they did not understand what they were saying.

As believers we must be very careful to explain to unbelievers the things of God happening before them. Unbelievers cannot understand

because they are spiritually appraised, but God can use those events as a platform upon which to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Poured Forth

1. **Therefore**. What conclusions did Peter draw? Peter showed that after Jesus was ascended, He was exalted and received the promise of the Holy Spirit.

2. **Exalted**. The exaltation of Jesus was to the right hand of the Father.

3. **Hand**. The right hand of the Father was the place of authority, privilege and high position.

4. **Promise**. Jesus prophesied about the Father sending the Holy Spirit, but the prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father.

5. **Holy Spirit**. Jesus then poured out the Holy Spirit upon the apostles.

6. **Poured**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Holy Spirit has been poured out upon us at the moment of salvation, and we have been baptized with the Holy Spirit by Jesus.

7. **See and Hear**. We rejoice today because the eyewitnesses testified for us about what happened with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, because they, like the crowd, both heard and saw the power of the Holy Spirit at work.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the exaltation of Jesus and the pouring forth of the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by sharing the story of Pentecost with people so that they may understand more about the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that the crowd also saw and heard the Holy Spirit at work.**

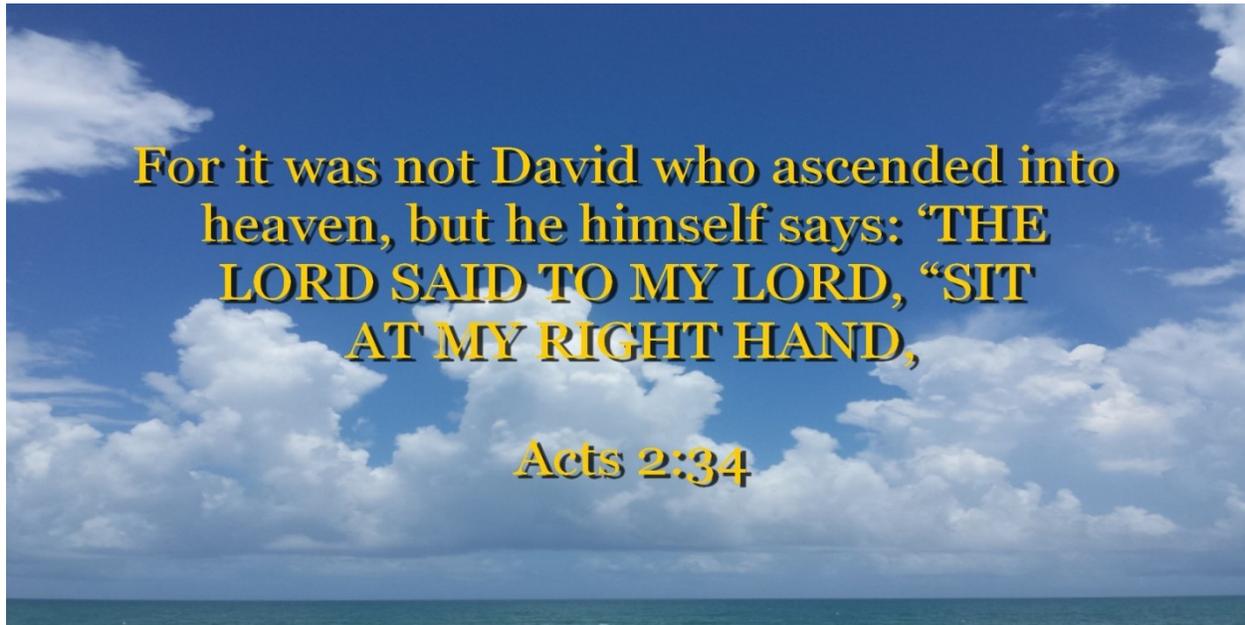
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the work of the Holy Spirit among us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by testifying about the work of the Holy Spirit in your life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 60

Ascended Today



Did David ascend to heaven? No, David did not ascend to heaven, but he wrote about Jesus Who did.

As a prophet of Yahweh, David wrote under the inspiration of God. He wrote about Jesus. David understood that the body of Jesus was not going to undergo decay and His soul was not going to Hades. David also understood that Yahweh said to Adoni to sit at His right hand until Yahweh made the enemies of Adoni His footstool. In this enthronement Psalm, God the Father was described as Yahweh, indicating that both the Father and Son used the title Yahweh. Jesus was described as Adoni (my Lord), referring to Jesus.

Jesus will sit at the right hand of God the Father until all the enemies of Jesus have been made His footstool. Therefore, we know that the Father has an active hand in subduing the enemies of Jesus.

Therefore, David prophesied about both the ascension and exaltation of Jesus to the right hand of the Father. We also know that Jesus will continue sitting there until He goes forth to fight as on a day of battle, when

He will return to the earth and put His feet on the Mount of Olives. You may recall He ascended to heaven from the Mount of Olives and the apostles were told Jesus would return just as He left.

Right Hand

1. **David**. What did David know about Yahweh? David knew that Yahweh was a title to describe God the Father.

2. **Ascended**. David also looked forward and saw the ascension of Jesus, but David never ascended.

3. **Heaven**. David looked into heaven and saw Jesus sitting at the right hand of God.

4. **LORD**. The New American Standard Bible translators use the term “LORD” to translate the term “Yahweh.”

5. **Lord**. The New American Standard Bible translators translated the term “Adoni” as “my Lord.” The term “Adonai” is the plural of “Adoni.” David wrote that Yahweh told my Lord to sit at His right hand.

6. **Sit**. Living holy in the family of God means that we exult in the knowledge that Jesus now sits at the right hand of God the Father.

7. **Enemies**. We rejoice today because Jesus will be coming back to earth, but only when the Father has slain the enemies of the Son.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by seeing Jesus sitting at the right hand of God the Father.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Jesus is sitting now in glory, but the day is coming when He will go forth as a victorious king with His heavenly army.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by looking for Jesus to return from glory to the earth as the glorious King.**

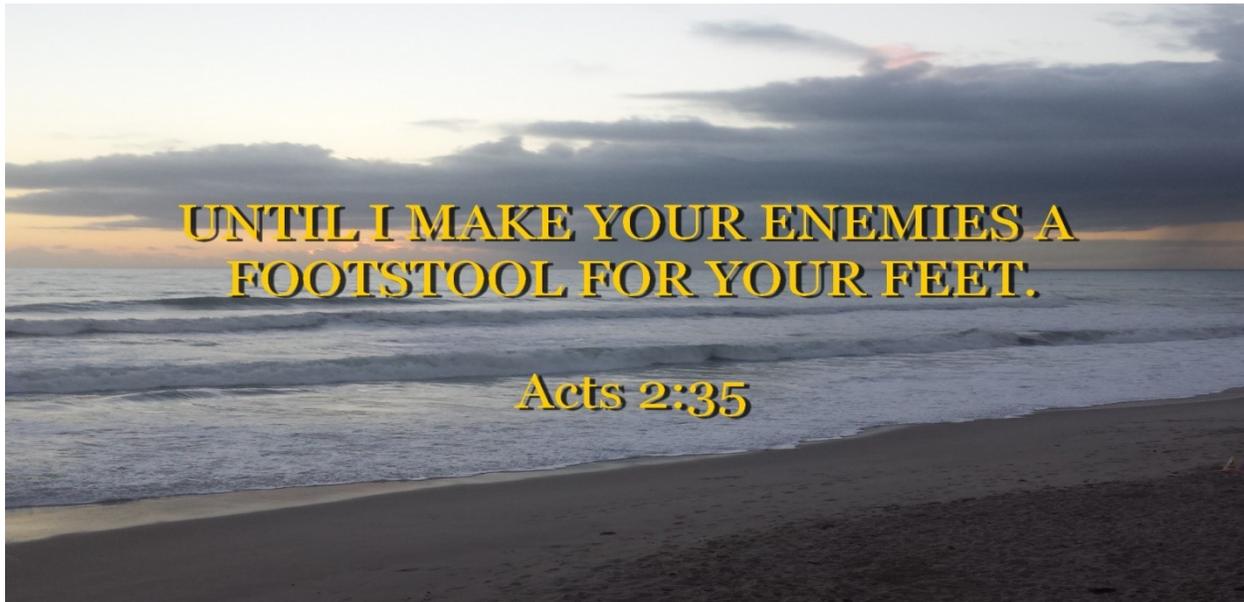
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that the Father commanded Jesus to sit at His right hand. Will you live holy in the family of God today by looking for Jesus to stand up one day and return to earth?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 61

Enemies Today



While Jesus sits at the right hand of God, what does God the Father do for Jesus? God the Father is making the enemies of Jesus a footstool for the feet of Jesus.

David prophesied about Jesus, centuries before Jesus took flesh and dwelt among men. David wrote that Jesus would ascend to heaven and sit at the right hand of God the Father.

David used the title Yahweh for God the Father. At times in the Old Testament, the title Yahweh also applied to Jesus. Yahweh was the covenant Name for God and Jesus claim that Name for Himself.

Peter at Pentecost quoted the psalmist David to explain to the crowd what happened and what to expect next. David said that Jesus would sit at the right hand of God until His enemies were made a footstool for His feet. Therefore, Peter showed that Jesus was right then sitting at the right hand of God the Father. God the Father had sent the Holy Spirit in the Name of Jesus and the crowd had witnessed the Holy Spirit appearing. Peter showed

conclusively that Jesus was going to die, rise from the dead, and then ascend to heaven with a glorified body.

Footstool

1. **Until**. How long will Jesus sit at the right hand of God the Father? Until the Father makes the enemies of Jesus a footstool for His feet.

2. **I**. God spoke in the first person, “I.”

3. **Make**. God said He Himself would take the action against the enemies of Jesus.

4. **Your**. God also personalize the enemies of Jesus as “Your.”

5. **Enemies**. David also described Jesus as having enemies. Being an enemy of God invited terrible consequences from God.

6. **Footstool**. Living holy in the family of God means that Yahweh will make the enemies of Jesus like a footstool before Jesus.

7. **Feet**. We rejoice today because Jesus has feet and His enemies will become His footstool, all in God’s time.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the prophecies of David.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God will make the enemies of Jesus a footstool for the feet of Jesus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by looking forward to the day when all the enemies of Jesus have become a footstool for His feet.**

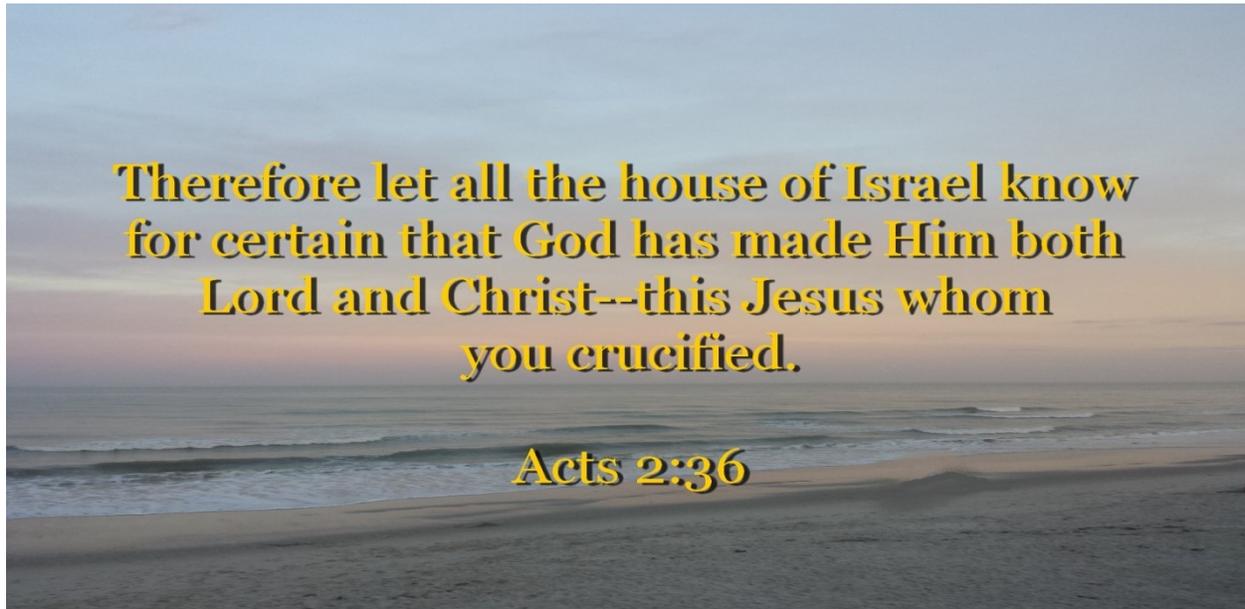
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by counting upon Yahweh to always keep His promises. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping Jesus, knowing that He will return to earth at just the right time?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 62

House of Israel Today



As Peter preached to the crowd at Pentecost, what did Peter want the crowd to know for sure? Peter wanted the crowd to know that God had made Jesus both Lord and Christ, and the crowd had crucified Jesus.

Peter preached with great convicting power from the Holy Spirit. Jesus had prophesied that when the Holy Spirit came, He would convict the world of sin. The Holy Spirit has a ministry of convicting people of sin.

Peter preached about sin, a topic that many people tend to avoid thinking about. Peter confronted the crowd of Jews directly with proof that God had made Jesus both Lord and Christ (Messiah). Peter intended the crowd to be pierced to their hearts by the word of God. Peter authoritatively applied the prophecies of David to the crowd before him.

Having witnessed the noise and the apostles speaking in known languages, the crowd understood that God had worked among them. Peter stood up, seizing the moment, and used the Bible to show the crowd that what happened that day had been prophesied long before.

Peter did not want just to give a history lesson; he wanted the crowd to come to faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. The Holy Spirit also wanted people in the crowd to come to faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and receive the free gift of eternal life that day.

Crucified

1. **Therefore**. The word “Therefore” links what follows with what came before, drawing a conclusion here.

2. **Israel**. Peter was addressing the men of Israel, just like Jesus was a Jew from Israel.

3. **Know**. Peter declared that they should know what God had done with Jesus.

4. **God**. God made Jesus both Lord and Christ (Messiah), fulfilling Old Testament prophecies about Messiah.

5. **Jesus**. Peter identified Jesus as the Messiah of the Old Testament.

6. **You**. Living holy in the family of God means that we know why Peter confronted the crowd with the knowledge that “You” crucified the Lord and Christ, Jesus the Nazarene. He wanted that crowd to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and be saved that day.

7. **Crucified**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit convicts hearts and moves people to receive Jesus as Savior, the crucified Lord of glory.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by proclaiming Jesus, so that the hearts of people are pierced with His loving truth.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by urging people to believe in Jesus for salvation, the Lord and Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus for being our Lord and Christ, crucified for us.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising Jesus that God made Him both Lord and Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming Christ as Lord and Savior?

HALLELUJAH !

7

The Early Church Today

Peter's Holy Spirit sermon pierced the hearts of the crowd. They said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "brethren, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "repent, each of you be baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." About 3000 souls received Jesus by faith and were baptized. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Things were going great in the Jerusalem church, although a storm of persecution was brewing among the religious leaders.

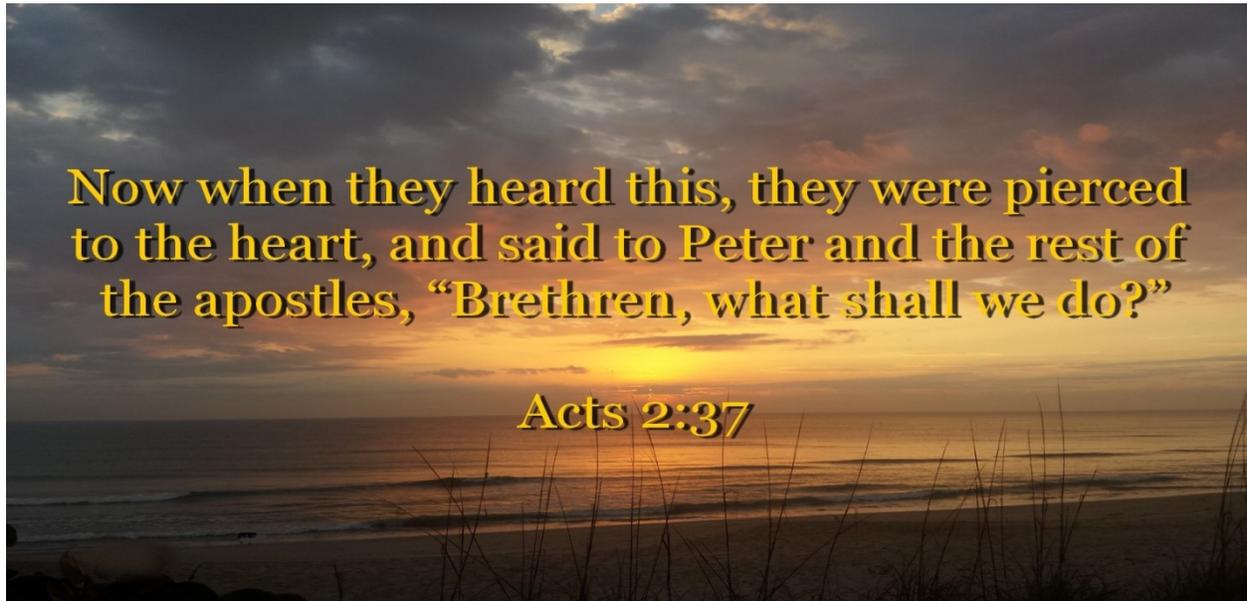
Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe. God worked many wonders and signs through the hands of the apostles. The people who believed were transformed. They held all things in common and began selling their property and possessions. They were sharing all that they had as anyone had need. Day by day they were continuing with one mind in the Temple, and Breaking bread from house to house. They were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart. They were praising God and having

favor with all the people. The Lord was adding to their numbers all who are being saved.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 63

Heard Today



Who was pierced to the heart? The crowd around Peter was pierced to the heart.

Having heard Peter's preaching, the crowd asked Peter and the rest of the apostles: "Brethren, what shall we do?" Great preaching often provokes serious questions.

Speaking under the influence of the Holy Spirit, Peter had used the Old Testament and the personal knowledge of the crowd to prove that Jesus really was the Christ, the Messiah of the Old Testament.

The Holy Spirit showed the crowd that they had crucified Jesus the Nazarene, whom God had made Lord and Christ. By their hands, the Romans put Jesus to death. The death of Jesus, however, brought salvation by faith for all who would call upon the Name of the Lord.

God's plan of salvation started right there in Jerusalem at Pentecost. Of course, people had been saved previously, but the work of the apostles and

the program of God had begun in earnest at this point. The Holy Spirit had been poured out upon them and filled them. They were now ready to be the witnesses of Christ and Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.

Pierced

1. **Now**. What was the reaction of the crowd to Peter's preaching? Now their hearts were pierced by the message from the Holy Spirit.

2. **Heard**. Peter preached under the power of the Holy Spirit and people heard the Scriptures proclaimed to them, along with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

3. **Pierced**. The crowd was pierced to their heart by the power of the Scriptures and the proclamation by the Holy Spirit concerning Jesus, both Lord and Christ.

4. **Said**. The crowd heard Peter's preaching and they were moved in their hearts by the Holy Spirit convicting them to receive salvation and so they said to Peter their question about further action.

5. **Brethren**. The crowd started their question with the word "Brethren." They understood that the apostles were Jews and men of Israel, just like they were and just like Jesus was a Jew of Israel.

6. **What**. Living holy in the family of God means that good preaching often provokes people to ask "what" questions.

7. **Do**. We rejoice today because the crowd asked about what they could do because they understood they had crucified the Lord of glory, Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by expecting some people who hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ to ask what must they do.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and welcoming new members of the family of God into the fellowship.**

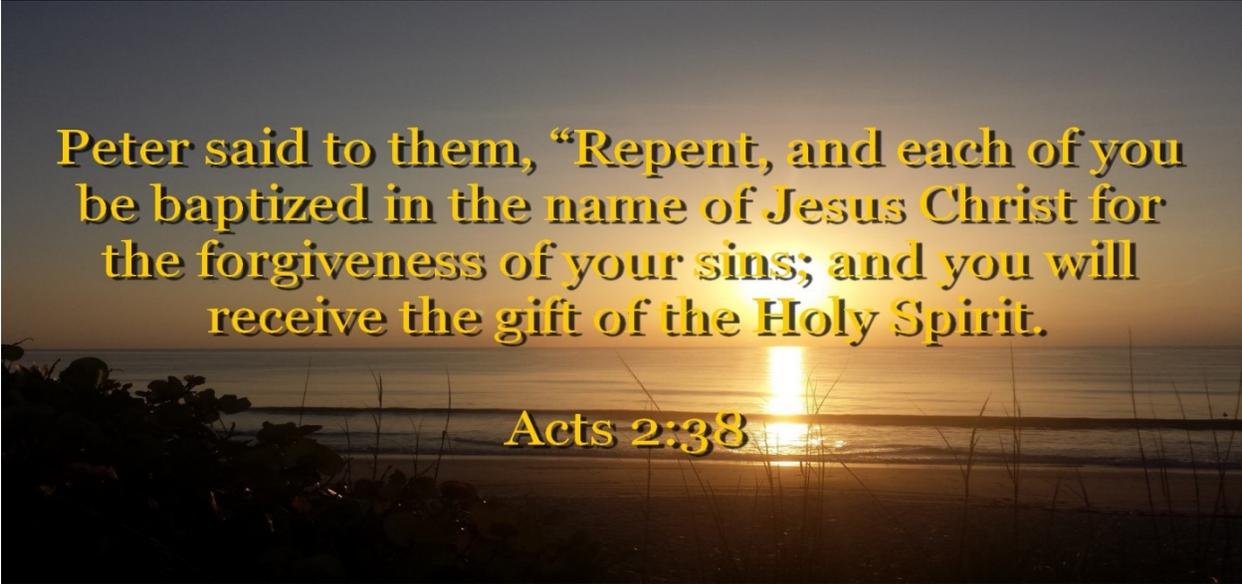
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by expecting people to ask what they must do after they have heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by being ready to explain to people how they can receive Jesus Christ as Savior?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 64

Repent Today

A photograph of a sunset over a beach. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and reflecting on the water. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. In the foreground, there are dark silhouettes of plants and grasses. The text is overlaid in a yellow, serif font.

Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38

How did Peter answer the question from the crowd? Peter told them to repent and be baptized.

Peter first told the crowd to repent of their sins. John the Baptist preached repentance of sins and baptism. While some people today argue that baptism saves you, and without baptism you cannot go to heaven, Peter never said that you must be baptized to go to heaven. In this context, Peter proclaimed Jesus as Savior.

Peter issued two commands to the crowd. First, the crowd must repent of their sins. Jesus said that repentance of sins would be proclaimed in His name by the apostles. No one argues that repentance alone sends anyone to heaven. Likewise, baptism does not send anyone to heaven.

Peter said that anyone who calls upon the Name of the Lord Jesus would be saved. Calling upon the Name of Jesus involves faith. People repent of their sins by changing their mind about their actions. The crowd changed its mind about Jesus when they understood the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies and the power of the Holy Spirit at work in their

presence. Peter was not proclaiming salvation by repentance or baptism, although both of them accompany salvation, but do not produce salvation. Salvation comes by faith alone.

Gift

1. **Peter**. Peter delivered the message of Pentecost and it pierced the hearts of the crowd.

2. **Repent**. Repent means to change your mind about your actions, particularly your sins.

3. **Baptized**. Peter proclaimed baptism, because Jesus commanded the people who believe in Him to be baptized. Baptism follows salvation. It never produces salvation. The thief on the cross went to paradise with Jesus, but was never baptized.

4. **Jesus Christ**. Baptism in the Name of the Lord Jesus was commanded by God. In fact, Jesus commanded the apostles to baptize people in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

5. **Forgiveness**. Forgiveness of sins follows saving faith in Jesus Christ.

6. **Sins**. Living holy in the family of God means that we know that salvation includes understanding that you are a sinner that falls short of the glory of God.

7. **Holy Spirit**. We rejoice today because at the moment of salvation by faith in Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by proclaiming repentance for sins and baptism in the Name of Jesus, because we have been saved by Him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by proclaiming Jesus, teaching people about repentance and baptism, and making disciples of all the nations.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus for the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives at the moment of salvation.**

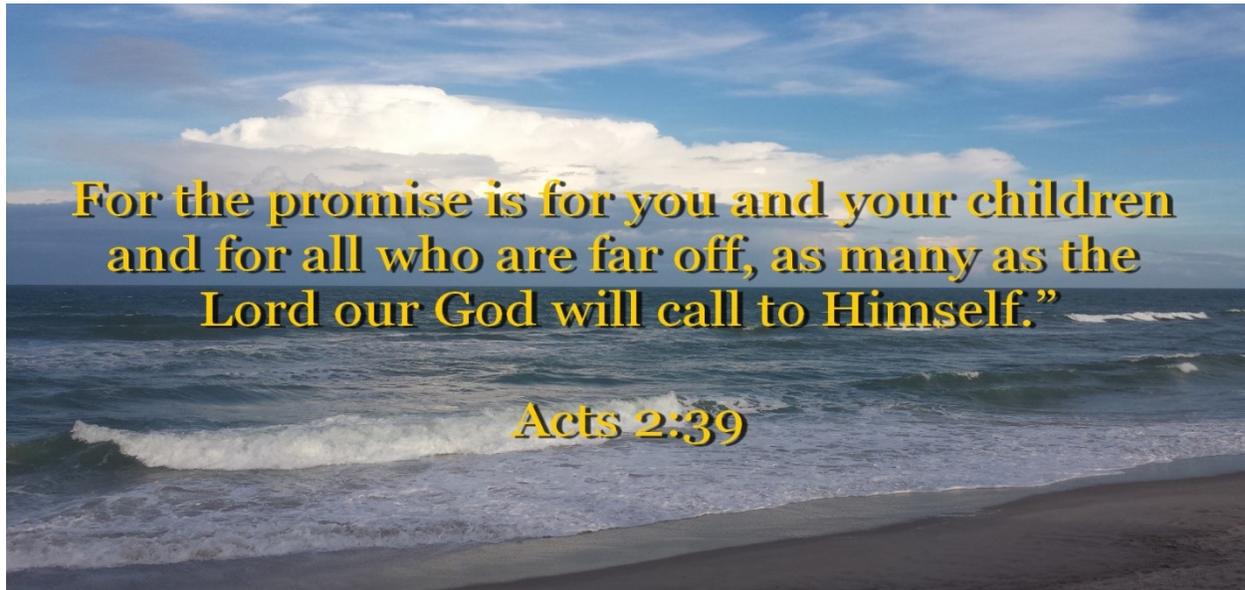
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting the Holy Spirit to produce God's will in your life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 65

Promise Today



What did Peter explain about the promise from God? Peter explained that the promise from God was for the crowd and for their children.

Peter proclaimed that the Lord God will call men, women, and children to Himself. Peter made a general proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, inviting everybody to believe for salvation.

Peter understood that only the people that the Lord God calls to Himself will respond affirmatively to the invitation. Only the people with saving faith will believe that Jesus really was the Messiah and accept Him as Savior. Saving faith comes as a gift from the Lord God.

Having believed for salvation, people receive baptism as an expression of their identification with Christ. They proclaim their faith in Christ as Savior through baptism. But just as baptism signals that Jesus was going into public ministry, so also believers signal that from that moment of baptism forward, they too will go into the public ministry for Christ each day. At that same moment of salvation, they receive the free gift of the Holy Spirit and He takes up His indwelling presence in their life, never to leave them.

God Will Call

1. **Promise**. Peter proclaimed the promises of God to the crowd before him and reminded the crowd that the promise extended also to their children.

2. **You**. Peter personalized the promise by saying the promise applied to you in the crowd.

3. **Children**. The promise of God also extended to the children, because God always loves generation after generation and offer salvation on an individual basis by faith alone.

4. **All**. Peter described the scope of the promise as including all people whom the Lord God calls to Himself.

5. **Lord**. Peter described the Lord as the One Who calls people to Himself.

6. **Call**. Living holy in the family of God means that that we heard and accepted the call of God so that we called upon His Name for salvation. As many as God calls to Himself, those people will be saved from the penalty of their sins and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit immediately.

7. **Himself**. We rejoice today because God called us to Himself, and we became the children of God and filled with the Holy Spirit.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the promises of God to everyone who calls upon His Name.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by proclaiming Jesus and urging people to call upon the Name of the Lord for salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that only the people that the Lord calls to Himself will be saved.**

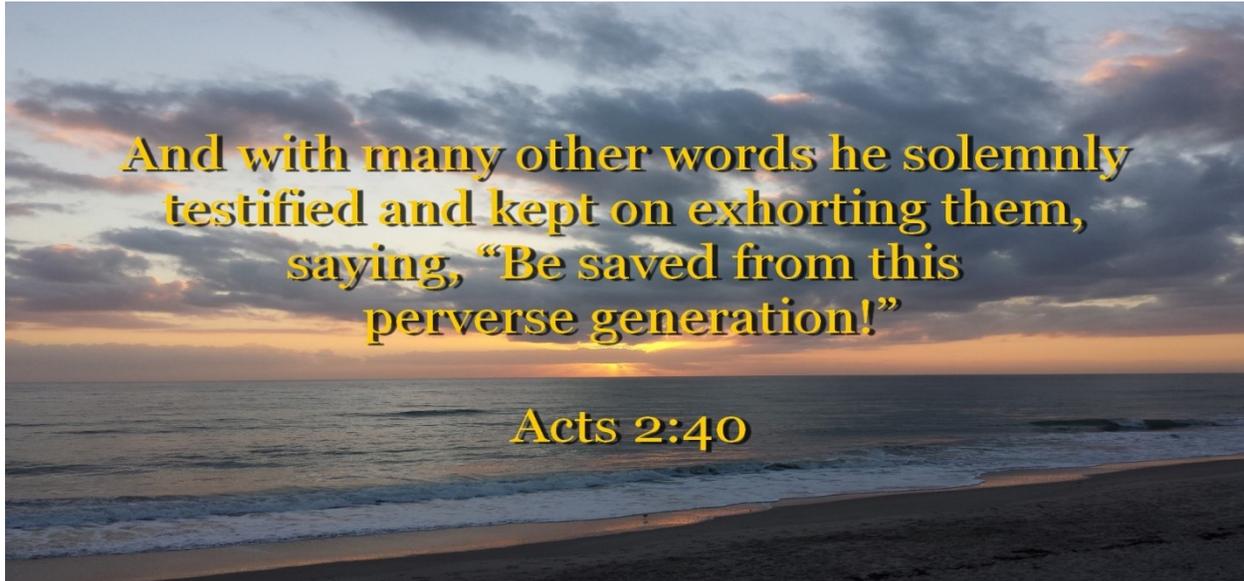
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by proclaiming salvation in Jesus Christ, just as God promised. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that He called you to Himself for salvation?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 66

Testified Today



What did Peter exhort the crowd to do? Peter exhorted them to be saved from this perverse generation.

Peter preached a sermon proving that God had made Jesus the Nazarene both Lord and Christ. Peter quoted both Joel and David in the Old Testament to show how Christ fulfilled those prophecies and the Holy Spirit had been poured out.

Having heard Peter, the crowd was pierced to the heart and asked what they must do. Peter told them to repent and be baptized, with the knowledge that as many as God called to Himself, they would be saved.

Peter then with many other words testified solemnly to them and kept exhorting them to be saved from this perverse generation. That generation had crucified the Lord of glory by the hands of the Romans. They were all sinners and fell short of the glory of God.

Peter proclaimed salvation in Jesus Christ. Peter exhorted the crowd to believe in Jesus for salvation. Today was the day of salvation for that crowd and as many as called upon the Name of the Lord were saved.

Perverse Generation

1. **Many**. How did Peter testify to the crowd? Peter testified with many other words.
2. **Words**. Peter spoke to the crowd with words. Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ requires words to explain the Gospel and urge people to receive it. Actions alone will not be enough.
3. **Testified**. Peter testified to what the crowd and the apostles had seen.
4. **Exhorted**. Peter also exhorted the crowd, urging them to be saved.
5. **Saved**. Peter described being saved from the present perverse generation.
6. **Perverse**. Living holy in the family of God means that God saved us out of the perverse generation.
7. **Generation**. We rejoice today because God loves people and saves them out of perverse generations.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by testifying and exhorting people to be saved today.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by proclaiming the love of God to people who live in a perverse generation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He loves sinners like us and saved us from a perverse generation.**

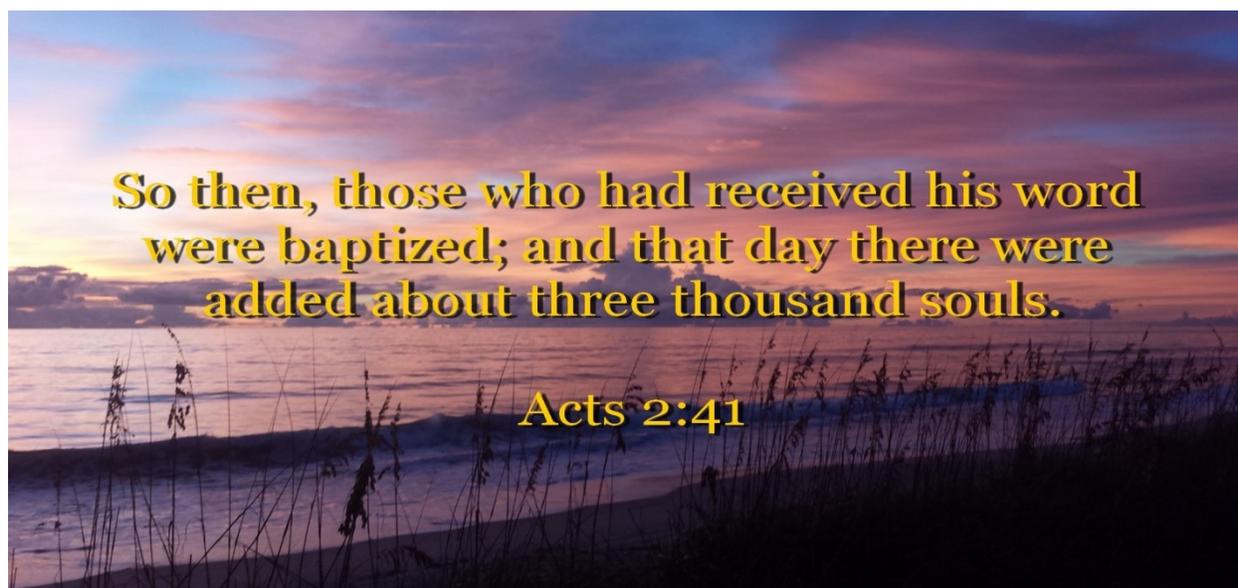
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by testifying and proclaiming that people can be saved from the present perverse generation. Will you live holy in the family of God today by using words to testify and urge people to be saved today?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 67

Baptized Today



What did people do after receiving the word of God? People were baptized immediately.

How many people in the crowd were saved that day? Luke wrote that three thousand souls were baptized that day, because they had received the words of Peter. They were saved out of that perverse generation.

In the New Testament, people were baptized immediately after salvation. Baptism never saved anyone, but virtually everyone saved was baptized. Baptism symbolizes many things, including identification with Christ, filling with the Holy Spirit, and the beginning of daily ministry for Christ.

Jesus baptized the people with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation by faith. John the Baptist had prophesied that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit. Indeed, everyone in the church has been baptized with the Holy Spirit, Who unites the church and fills the church.

Luke wrote that three thousand souls were added to the church. The Holy Spirit convicted an entire crowd at one time as Peter preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Added

1. **Then**. What happened after Peter testified and exhorted the crowd to be saved? Three thousand souls received the word and were baptized that day.

2. **Received**. Jesus said that as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.

3. **Word**. The word of God included the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

4. **Baptized**. Baptism in the New Testament described immersion in water.

5. **Day**. In a single day three thousand souls were added to the church.

6. **Three Thousand**. Living holy in the family of God means that God can bring three thousand people to salvation in a single day.

7. **Souls**. We rejoice today because three thousand souls were added to the church in the first day that the Holy Spirit spoke through Peter.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by welcoming people into the family of God who received the word of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by being baptized after salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by baptizing believers and seeing their souls added to the church because of their saving faith in Jesus.**

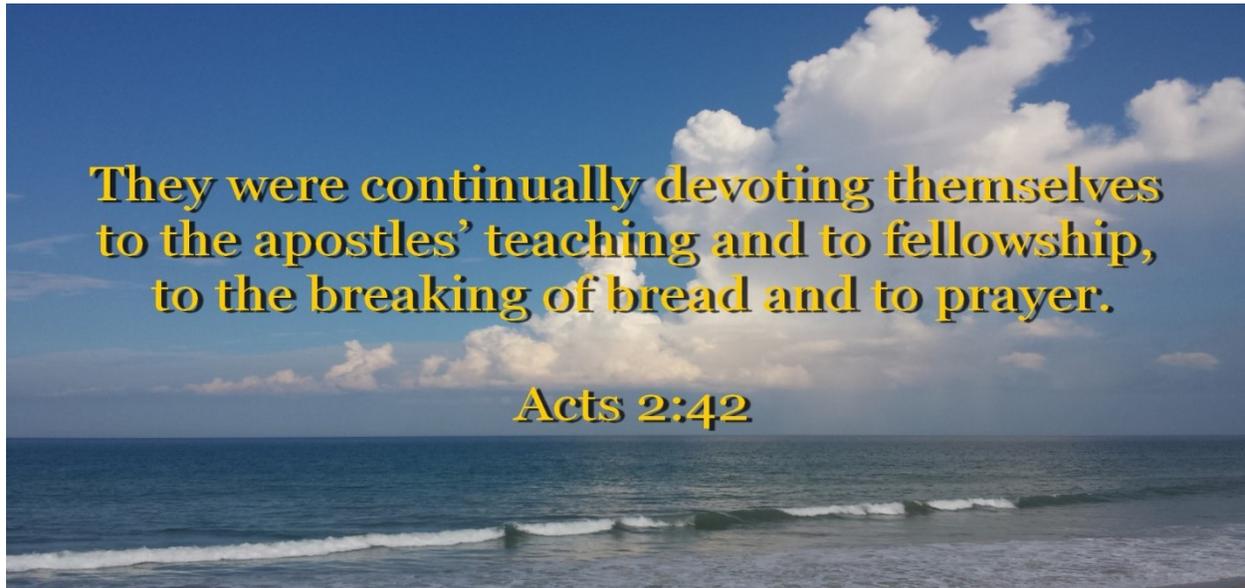
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by welcoming people who have been born again into the family of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by welcoming new saints into the family of God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 68

Continually Today



What did the 3000 souls do after salvation? They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to breaking of bread, and to prayer.

The new saints were devoted to spiritual things. The apostles were teaching and the new saints were listening and obeying.

The new saints also devoted themselves to fellowship, having all things in common. They spent time with each other.

The new saints also broke bread together. They had the Lord's Supper together and they ate together.

The new saints also devoted themselves to prayer. They prayed together, spent time together, worshiped together in fellowship together.

Right from the start, the new church devoted itself to four main activities and we should do likewise. Those four activities were: (1) the apostles' teaching; and (2) fellowship; and (3) breaking of bread; and (4) prayer.

If any of those four activities are lacking in your life or your local assembly, open your Bibles to Acts chapter 2 and look at the things that occupied the new saints.

Devoting Themselves

1. **Continually**. What occupied the time of the new saints? The new saints were continually devoting themselves to spiritual pursuits with each other.

2. **Devoted**. The new saints devoted themselves, meaning they spent particular time.

3. **Themselves**. Others did not force them into subjection, but they devoted themselves to spiritual pursuits.

4. **Teaching**. The new saints devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching.

5. **Fellowship**. The new saints devoted themselves to fellowship with each other.

6. **Breaking of Bread**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the early church devoted itself to the breaking of bread with each other.

7. **Prayer**. We rejoice today because the early church devoted itself to prayer, just as the apostles and others did before the Holy Spirit filled them at Pentecost.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by devoting ourselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by following the pattern of the early church.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by devoting ourselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer with one another.**

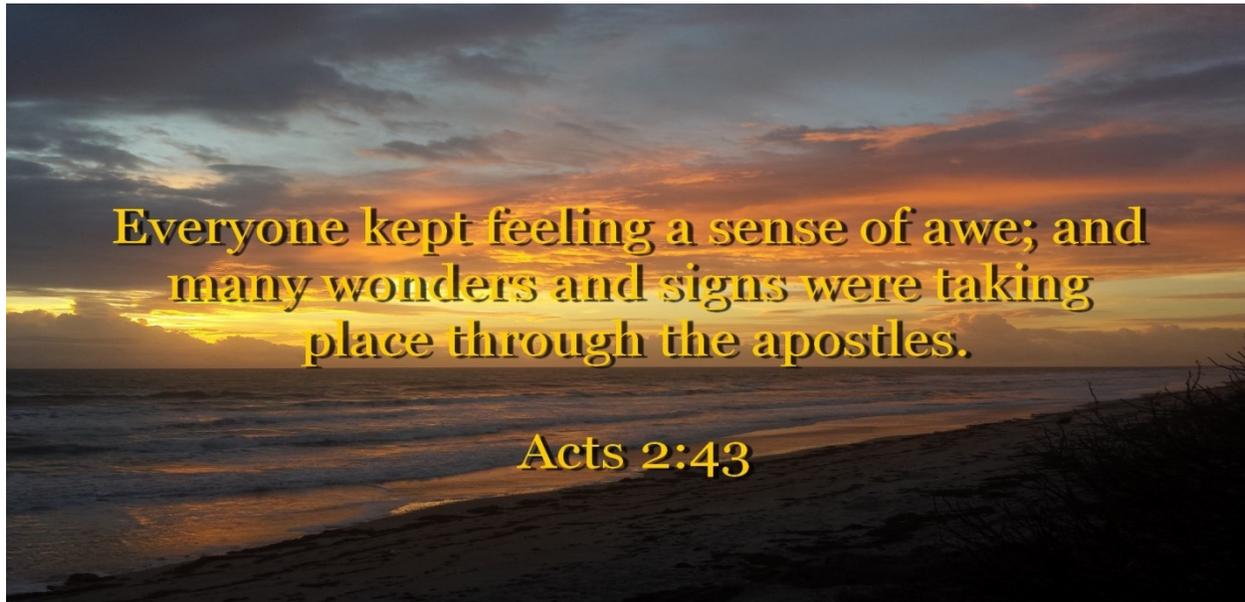
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by spending spiritual time together. Will you live holy in the family of God today by devoting yourself to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer with other believers?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 69

Awe Today



How did the new saints feel? They kept feeling a sense of awe.

Three thousand saints all had the same spiritual birthday. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer. They were all baptized by Jesus with the Holy Spirit.

After salvation, the new saints felt a sense of awe. God did many signs and wonders through the apostles. God made His presence felt among the new saints.

Today, many saints have lost that sense of awe. They no longer devote themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to breaking of bread together, and to prayer with one another. Taking time to read Acts 2 will always provide a wonderful guide to improving our spiritual lives.

God may not work as many signs and wonders among the saints as He did in Acts 2, but He certainly makes His presence felt in many ways. Jesus and His Father and the Holy Spirit remain active in the church today.

Wonders and Signs

1. **Everyone**. Who felt a sense of awe? Everyone felt a sense of awe.
2. **Feeling**. God cares about feelings and has plenty of power to make everyone feel a sense of awe.
3. **Awe**. The rushing wind and the noise of the wind and hearing the apostles speak in foreign languages certainly were awe-inspiring. Greater, however, was the forgiveness of sins by faith in Christ and far more awe-inspiring.
4. **Many**. God also provided many signs and wonders.
5. **Signs**. Signs tend to confirm the authority of people acting for God.
6. **Wonders**. Living holy in the family of God means that God does supernatural things for people to see and appreciate His loving power.
7. **Apostles**. We rejoice today because the apostles obeyed Jesus and waited in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them and then they obeyed further by teaching and then proclaiming Jesus to the crowds.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the sense of awe we felt when we first came to Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by giving thanks to God for the signs and wonders He performed in the early church.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus for the sense of awe and the signs and wonders He created in the early church.**

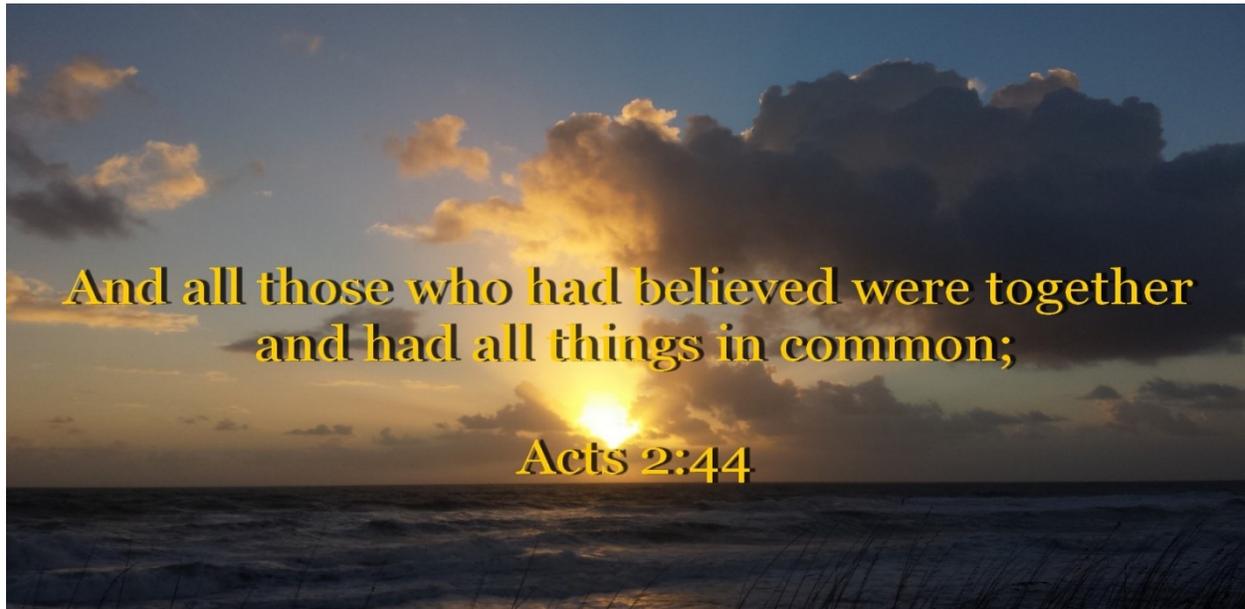
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the signs and wonders He brought to the early church. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that sense of awe you once felt about Jesus?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 70

Believed Today



Where were the saints who believed? They stayed together in Jerusalem.

You may recall that Jesus commanded His apostles to stay in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them. The apostles also joined others in the upper room after the ascension and devoted themselves to prayer.

The new saints in Jerusalem stayed together and had all things in common. The Lord inaugurated the church, filled with lives made new by the Holy Spirit and His abiding presence in their lives. Having all things in common meant that they shared their resources so that no one lacked.

By staying together, the early church prayed together, fellowshiped together, learned together and broke bread together. Because they had all been saved on the same day, they shared wonderful memories and the spiritual union in Christ.

All Things

1. **All**. All the people who believed in Jesus for salvation were called saints.
2. **Believed**. They became saints because of their faith in Jesus Christ the Savior.
3. **Together**. The saints stayed together in Jerusalem and also shared the same spiritual birthday.
4. **Had**. They not only shared the same spiritual birthday, but they also shared their earthly goods with one another.
5. **All**. They did not hold things back, but shared all things.
6. **Things**. Living holy in the family of God means that sharing all things among the saints glorifies God.
7. **Common**. We rejoice today because the saints held all things in common, and joined their unified faith in God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by spending time together with other believers.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by sharing all things among the saints.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that God gave us all things so that we would share all things with one another.**

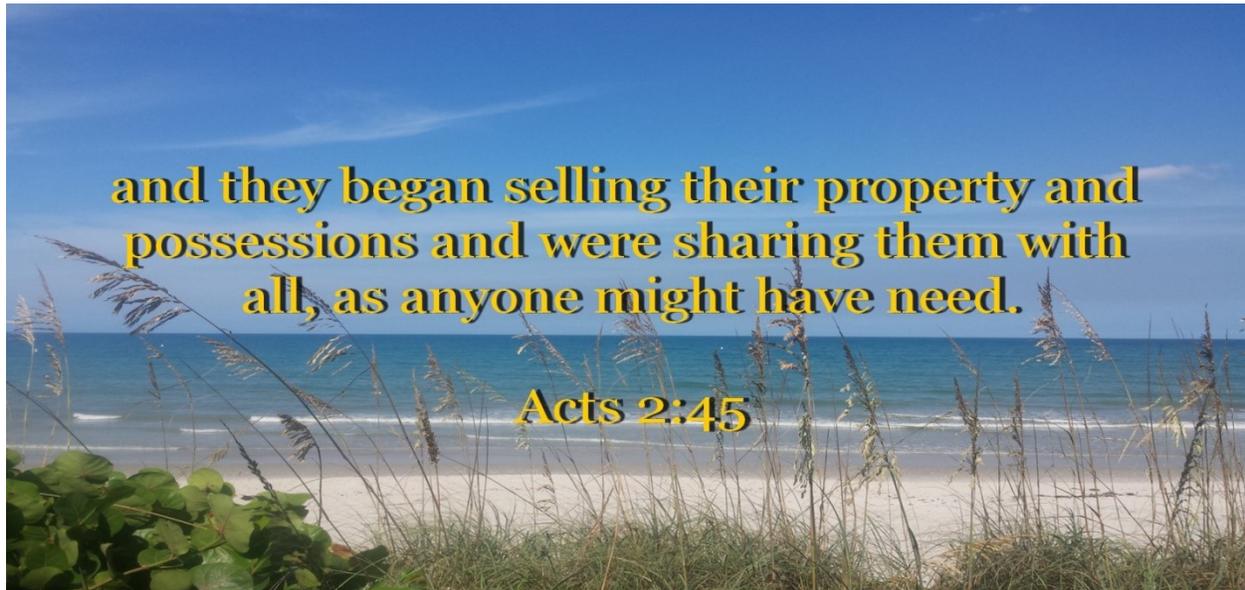
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by sharing all the good things God has given to us with one another. Will you live holy in the family of God today by sharing the things you have with other saints?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 71

Property Today



What did the early church do with their property? They sold their property and began sharing with people in need.

In the early church some people sold their property and placed the proceeds before the feet of the apostles. No one compelled them to sell their property or to lay it at the apostles' feet.

The early church expected Jesus to return soon. Many saints were selling their possessions and their property. They shared them with people in need. The apostles played a role in the distribution of assets.

The early church cared for the needs of the saints. The saints opened their hearts and their physical assets to care for the needy. They were not looking to the government to provide assistance to the poor. The church itself took care of the needs. Families also played an important role in caring for other members of the human family. Distributing the possessions and the property took special care from the apostles. They could distinguish the greatest needs from lesser needs and distribute accordingly. The New

Testament church often raised money to give to people struck by famine or other pressing needs.

Sharing

1. **Selling**. How did the saints meet the needs of other saints? They sold their property and possessions and shared them with those who had need.
2. **Property**. The saints sold their property.
3. **Possessions**. The saints sold their possessions.
4. **Sharing**. The saints shared the proceeds of those sales and their possessions with other saints in the church.
5. **All**. The saints were not partial to any; they were sharing with all in need.
6. **Anyone**. Living holy in the family of God means that saints share their property and possessions with anyone in need.
7. **Need**. We rejoice today because Jesus knows our needs and often uses saints to meet them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by using our property and possessions to meet the needs of the saints.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by dedicating our property and possessions to God's use at all times.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by meeting the needs of the other saints with the assets God gave to us.**

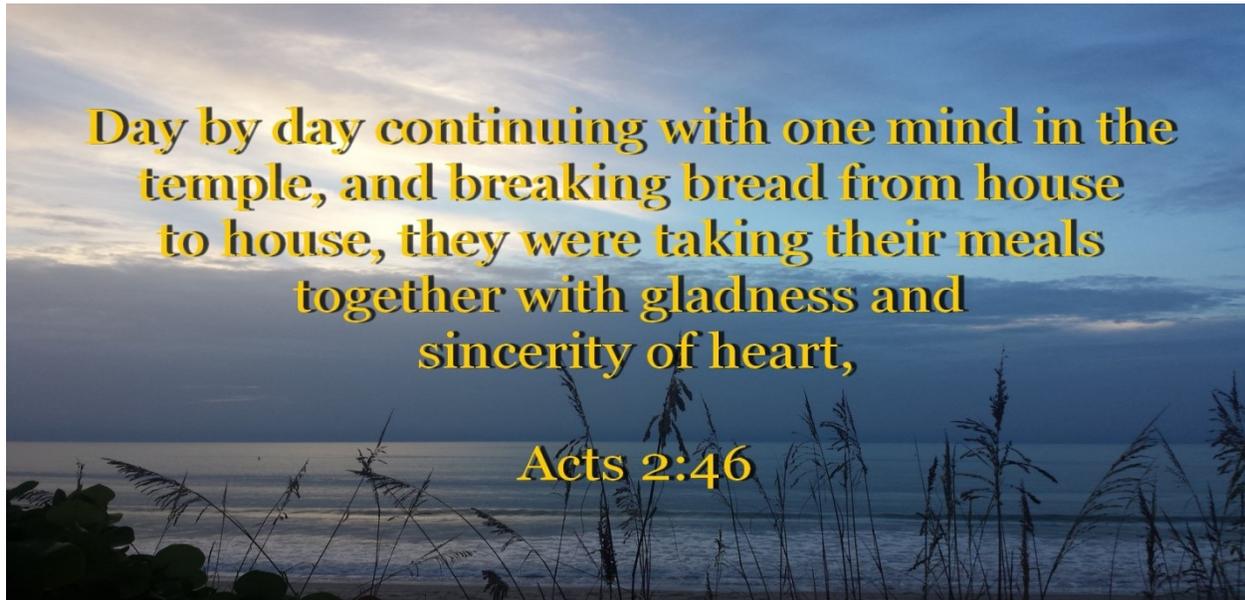
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by using our property and possessions to meet the needs of other saints. Will you live holy in the family of God today by dedicating your property and possessions to God's use and meeting the needs of other believers?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 72

Continuing Today



How did the new saints spend their time? They spent time every day in the Temple.

The church was born at Pentecost and thousands of people gained new life in Christ. The Holy Spirit took up residence in their life and the apostles were showing great signs and wonders. The new believers lived in all of what was going on in Jerusalem praising God and worshiping Him.

The new saints spent their time in the Temple and breaking bread from house to house. The phrase breaking bread may refer to the Lord's Supper or to eating together. It seems likely that the new saints were both enjoying the Lord's Supper together and eating together. They were breaking bread from house to house and taking their meals together.

The new saints were filled with gladness and sincerity of heart. When they broke bread together, they had a really good time together. They continued in fellowship with one another, walking in the light with Christ.

The presence of the Holy Spirit in their life was producing His fruit. We read about their love and joy and happiness as a spent time as a group in the Temple and from house to house.

Gladness and Sincerity

1. **Day**. Day by day they were spending time in the Temple.
2. **Mind**. The new saints were of one mind, unified by the Holy Spirit indwelling them.
3. **Temple**. Because they were Jewish, they enjoyed spending time in the Temple of God.
4. **Breaking Bread**. They also broke bread, eating their meals together.
5. **House**. They spent time together going from house to house, breaking bread together.
6. **Meals**. Living holy in the family of God means that saints often enjoy eating together and fellowshiping together.
7. **House**. We rejoice today because we can invite saints to our homes for prayer, food, partaking of the Lord's Supper together, with gladness and sincerity of heart.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by spending time with other saints.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by making time for fellowship, meetings of the body of Christ, and times at home with other believers.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by spending time with other believers and enjoying the light Christ gives us in the joy and power of the Holy Spirit.**

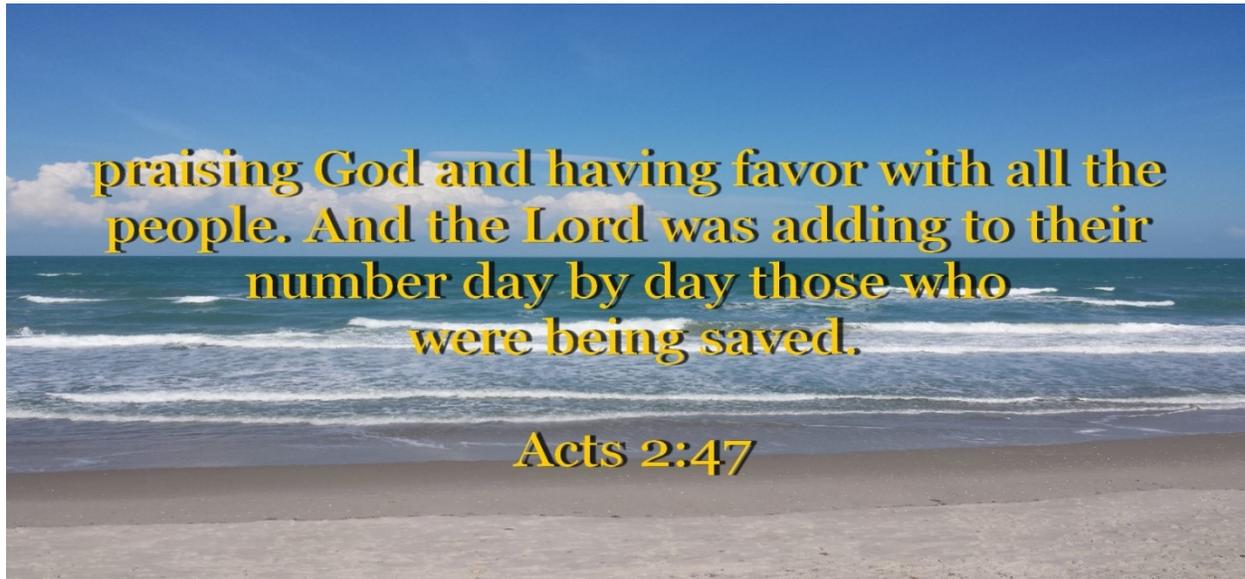
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by walking with Jesus each day and meeting other believers and also spending time in the homes of other believers breaking bread together, with gladness and sincerity of heart. Will you live holy in the family of God today by being united with other believers in one mind?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 73

Praising God Today



When the saints got together, what did they do? The saints got together and praised God.

Praising God formed an essential activity of the early church. When they got together, they spent time praising God. They had witnessed the signs and wonders performed by the apostles, and had witnessed the coming of the Holy Spirit. They heard the apostles speaking in foreign languages.

When saints become acutely aware of God's activity all around, they love to praise God for the things He does and Who He is. The saints gathered in the Temple and praised God and gathered from home to home praising God.

When we lift our hearts to God in praise, we glorify Him and have a very uplifting effect upon the people around us. Praising God spreads joy among the saints. The New Testament saints had so much to thank God for because Jesus set them free from sin and death and the Holy Spirit empowered them every day and they abide in the love of God the Father all the time.

As we enjoy praising God in the company of other saints, we keep feeling a sense of awe and we continue together in one mind. The Holy Spirit indwelling us unites us.

Adding

1. **Praising**. Why did the saints praise God? They praised God for His great love showered upon their lives.

2. **Favor**. As the new saints praised God, they had favor with all the people.

3. **People**. People notice when saints praise God and God receives the glory from the people who praise Him.

4. **Lord**. Although three thousand souls were saved immediately after Peter preached his first sermon of Pentecost, the Lord continually added to their number day by day.

5. **Number**. The early church grew daily as new people were saved every day.

6. **Day**. Living holy in the family of God means that God saves people every day by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

7. **Saved**. We rejoice today because God saved us by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ just like the people at Pentecost and all the saints since then.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God and finding favor with all people.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by watching God add people day by day to the church.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that membership in the church rests solely upon being saved by faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God and finding favor with all people. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for adding new believers day by day to the church?

HALLELUJAH !

8

Beautiful Beggar Today

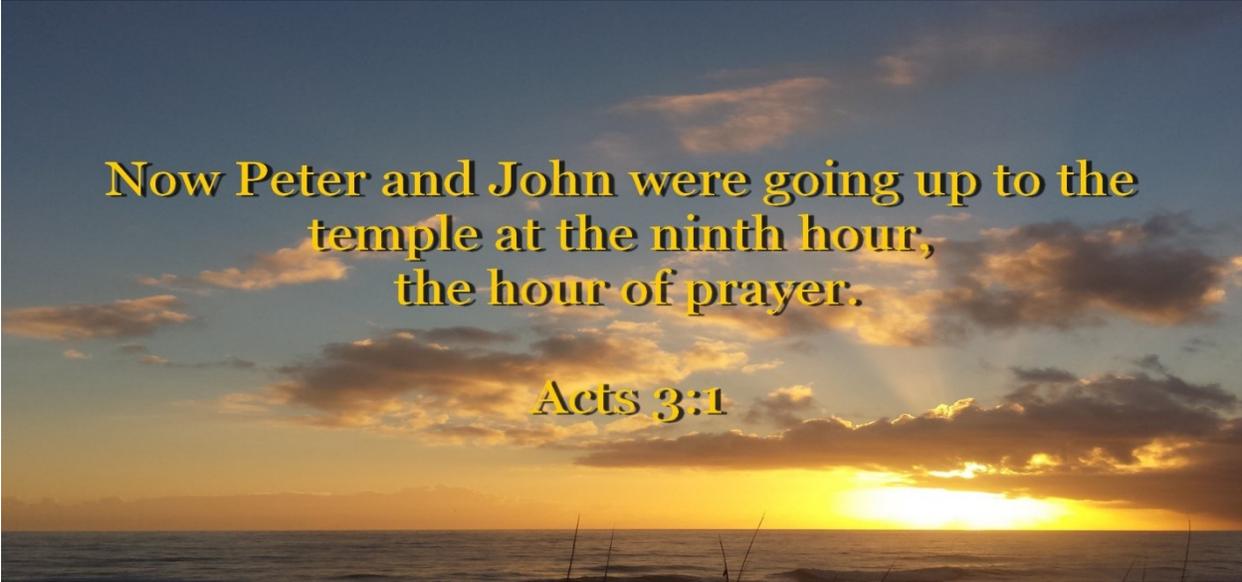
Peter and John were going up to the Temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer. Outside the beautiful gate they met a beggar, lame from birth. That Beautiful Beggar asked Peter and John for alms. Peter and John fixed their gaze upon him and said that silver and gold they did not have, but in the Name of the Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk.

The Beautiful Beggar leapt and stood upright and began to walk. He entered the Temple with Peter and John, walking and leaping and praising God. All the people saw him walking and praising God and they knew he was the man who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate begging alms. They were filled with wonder and amazement at what happened to him.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 74

Temple Today



Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer.

Acts 3:1

Who prayed in the Temple? Peter and John prayed in the Temple.

For the people in Jerusalem, the hour of prayer was the ninth hour. On Jewish time, the day began at 6 a.m., and then the ninth hour would be at 3:00 p.m.

Peter and John were apostles. Peter stood up at Pentecost and preached the first message which God used to bring three thousand souls to salvation that day. The foundation of the church consisted of the twelve apostles with Jesus Christ being the Cornerstone.

The historical detail of the ninth hour and the names of the two apostles Peter and John characterized Luke's writing style. Please recall that God inspired every word that Luke wrote resulting in Holy Words in the original autographs. Luke used his own vocabulary, sentence structure and other marks of his unique writing style as a physician and a saint.

In our lives, we may be doing something very natural and common that God can turn into a glorious event with everlasting consequences. Peter and

John were going to meet a man and his life would change forever. Peter and John were not so intent on going into the Temple to pray that they ignored the people they met on the way. They extended the love of Christ to a poor man looking for help as they walked to the Temple.

Hour of Prayer

1. **Peter**. Peter was a fisherman from Galilee when Jesus called him to be one of the twelve apostles.

2. **John**. John, the son of Zebedee, and his brother James were known as Sons of Thunder, and they left their father and a fishing boat to follow Jesus and become His apostles.

3. **Going**. Peter and John were going up to the Temple to pray.

4. **Temple**. The Temple was a large compound in Jerusalem with an inner and outer court.

5. **Ninth**. The Jewish day started at 6 a.m., so they were going up to the Temple at 3 p.m.

6. **Hour**. Living holy in the family of God means that Peter and John went up to the Temple for the hour of prayer and we should have regular times in our day set aside for prayer.

7. **Prayer**. We rejoice today because the apostles understood the value of prayer, even as Jesus prayed to His Father.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by taking time to pray every day.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praying with others.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging others to pray with us.**

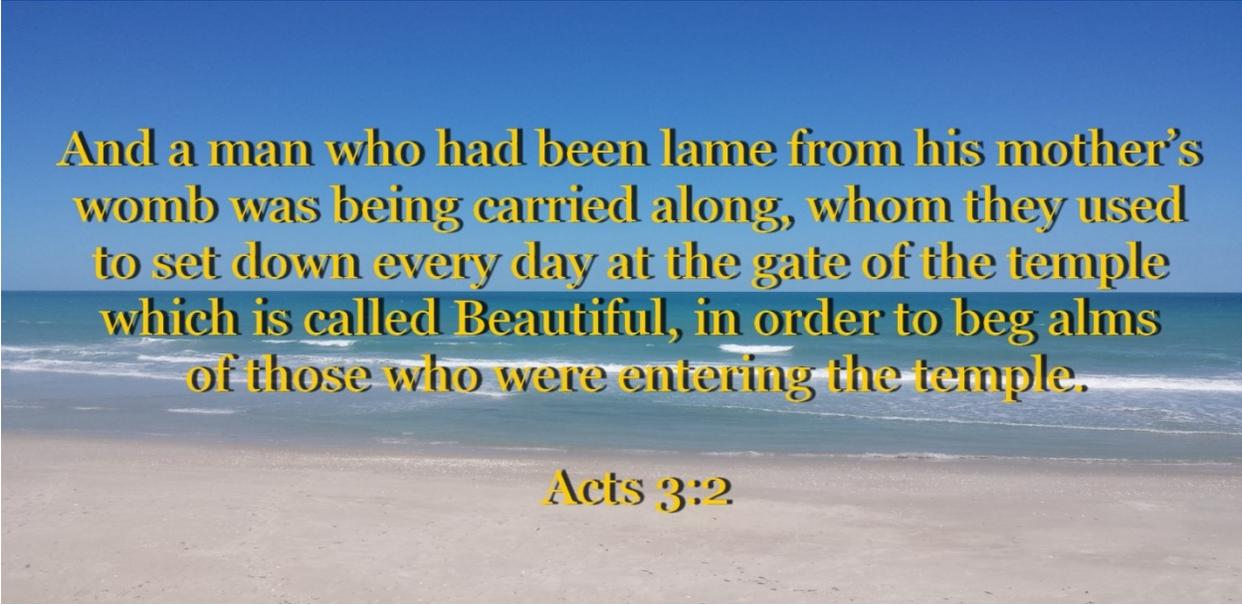
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking time to pray with other people. Will you live holy in the family of God today by making time to pray with other saints?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 75

Lame Today



And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple.

Acts 3:2

As Peter and John approached the Temple, who was being carried along? The Beautiful Beggar was being carried along.

My wife, Beverly, came up with the name Beautiful Beggar, because this beggar was set down every day at the gate of the Temple which is called Beautiful. The Beautiful Beggar used to beg alms of those entering the Temple at the Beautiful gate.

Although people were selling their possessions and laying them before the feet of the apostles, Peter and John were not wealthy men. As apostles of Jesus Christ, they also understood the value of praying with other believers in the Temple. Many examples of people praying at the ninth hour can be found in the Bible.

Peter and John had seen Jesus stop many times to talk to one person, even when many people crowded behind Him and followed Him. Jesus frequently made time for individuals who sought help from Him.

Peter and John were not so busy that they did not have time to spend with a Beautiful Beggar. His life would change forever after a few words from Peter and John.

Carried Along

1. **Man**. The Beautiful Beggar was a man being carried along, because he was lame from his mother's womb.
2. **Lame**. The Beautiful Beggar relied upon others to carry him.
3. **Down**. The Beautiful Beggar was carried along and set down daily at the Beautiful Gate.
4. **Beautiful**. The Temple had many gates, one of which was named the Beautiful Gate.
5. **Alms**. The Beautiful Beggar sought donations, called alms, from the people entering the Temple.
6. **Entering**. Living holy in the family of God means that all kinds of people enter the Temple every day, but the Beautiful Beggar sat watching them every day as they passed by.
7. **Temple**. We rejoice today because Peter and John met the Beautiful Beggar at the Beautiful Gate and the most beautiful thing happened that day at the Temple.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the Beautiful Beggar.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that He loves all beggars.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by keeping our eyes open as we go to prayer with other believers.**

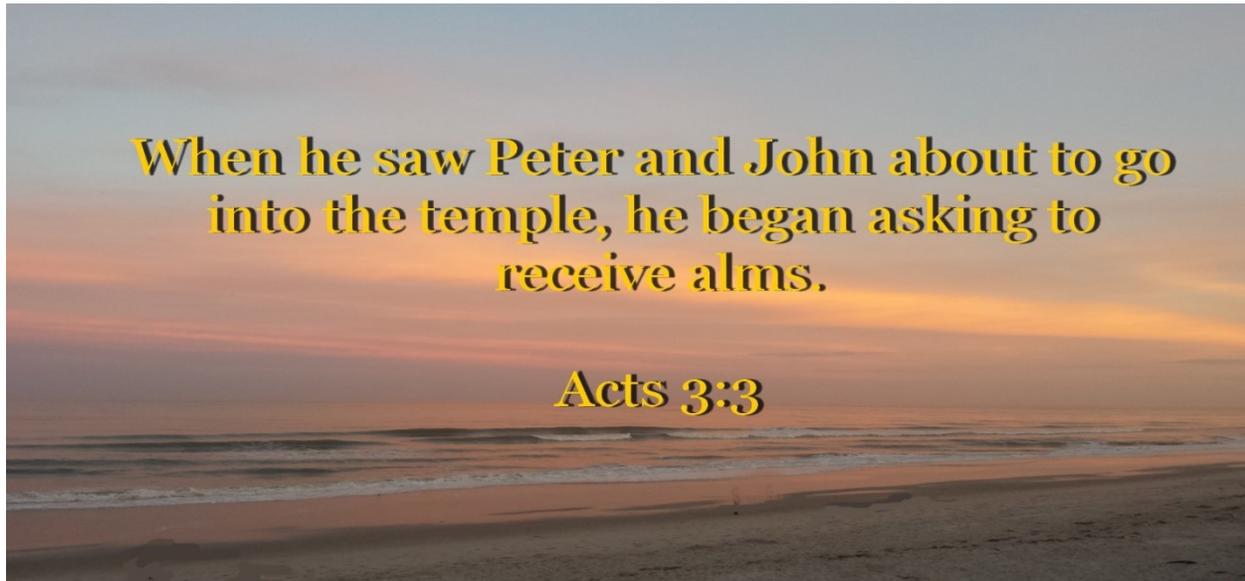
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the Beautiful Beggar. Will you live holy in the family of God today by looking carefully at the people you pass seeking alms?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 76

Peter and John Today



When the Beautiful Beggar saw Peter and John, what did he do? He began asking to receive alms.

Peter and John were going up to the Temple because it was the ninth hour, the hour of prayer. Like the three thousand new saints, Peter and John spent time in the Temple praying.

The Beautiful Beggar was carried to the Beautiful gate, because he had been born lame. As people went into the Temple, he would ask them for money.

You may recall also that the new saints were selling their property and sharing their possessions with anyone who had need. Jesus himself was very concerned about preaching the Gospel to the poor, and taking care of the needs of the poor.

As people streamed through the Beautiful gate, the Beautiful Beggar asked for alms. By asking for alms, he was able to support himself. During His ministry in the flesh, Jesus met Pallet Man. For decades, Pallet Man had

been waiting to get into the water to be healed, but someone else always stepped into the water before him. Jesus healed Pallet Man on the spot.

Alms

1. **When**. When the Beautiful Beggar saw Peter and John, he perceived an opportunity.

2. **He**. The Beautiful Beggar thought Peter and John had money.

3. **Peter**. Peter and preached a sermon to a large crowd and three thousand people were saved that day.

4. **John**. John accompanied Peter to the Temple where they were going to pray.

5. **Temple**. The Temple had many gates and one of them was called the Beautiful Gate.

6. **Asking**. Living holy in the family of God means that people will ask us all kinds of things, some of them seeking to receive something from us.

7. **Alms**. We rejoice today because Peter and John had something far more valuable than money to give to the Beautiful Beggar.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by paying attention to people asking us questions.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by going with friends to pray together.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by hearing people even when are walking with friends.**

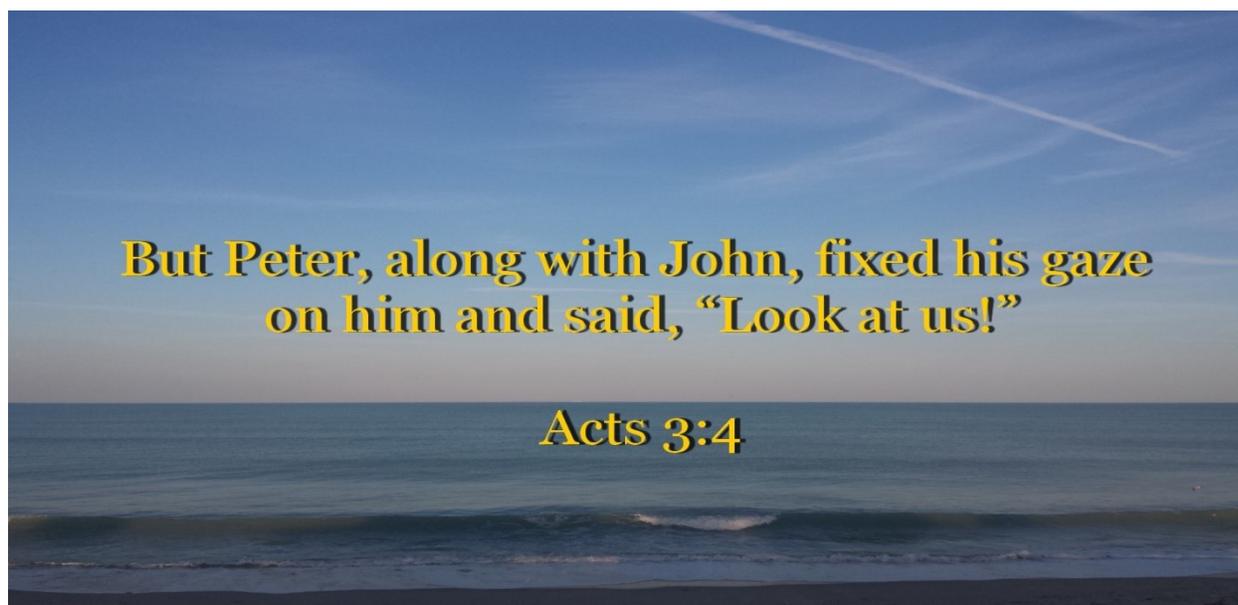
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by listening to people asking us for alms. Will you live holy in the family of God today by expecting people to ask you for help?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 77

Fixed his Gaze Today



What did Peter and John do in response to the Beautiful Beggar asking for alms? Peter and John looked at him intently.

Peter fixed his gaze upon the Beautiful Beggar and John joined him. Peter then said, "Look at us!" The Beautiful Beggar expected to receive alms, but Peter had something far better in mind.

Signs and wonders had taken place through the apostles. Peter understood the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit was present.

At times in our lives we asked for one thing, but God has already decided to give us something else far better. In the New Testament, people approached Jesus and sought help for themselves or others. They often asked for the help that they thought would be best. Yet, Jesus provided something far better than what they prayed for or expected.

God said that He can do far beyond all that we ask or think. When we pray, we often aim too low. We asked for too little. We asked according to human perceptions. God, however, has unlimited resources and unlimited

power and infinite purposes. God provides the very best for us all the time. Even so, God said that sometimes we have not because we ask not.

Look at Us

1. **But.** The word “But” indicates an adverse meaning. In this case, the beggar was thinking one thing, but Peter was thinking something far better

2. **Peter.** Peter knew that God was working all over Jerusalem, and particularly through the apostles.

3. **John.** John was walking with Peter and together they looked at the Beautiful Beggar.

4. **Gaze.** Peter and John fixed their gaze upon the Beautiful Beggar.

6. **Look.** Living holy in the family of God means that Peter commanded the Beautiful Beggar to look.

7. **Us.** We rejoice today because Peter and John were ready at a moment’s notice to do the works of God and help the Beautiful Beggar.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by listening and responding to people seeking help from us.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by giving people the help God wants them to have, not necessarily what they seek.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by being ready at all times to provide the help that God wants people to receive from us.**

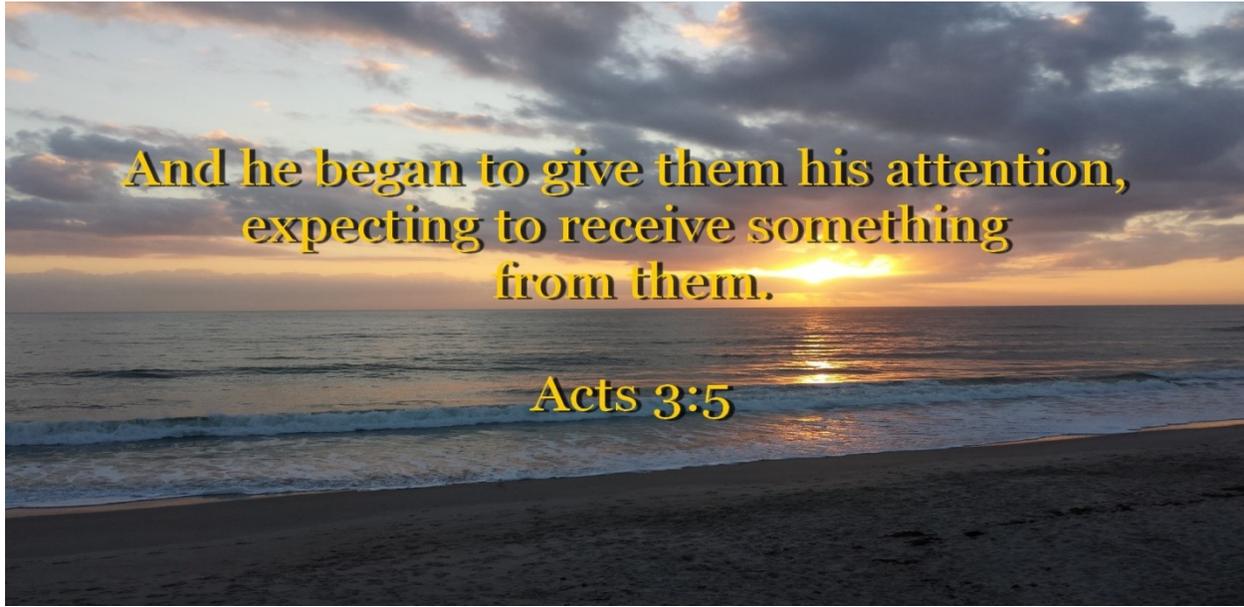
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by expecting God to present unique opportunities each day to help other people. Will you live holy in the family of God today by giving people the help that God wants them to have, which may not be what they are seeking?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 78

Expecting Today



When Peter and John fixed their gaze upon him, what did the Beautiful Beggar do? The Beautiful Beggar gave them his attention.

Peter and John were going to the Temple at the ninth hour to pray. As they were going into the Temple, they encountered the Beautiful Beggar. He sought alms from them.

At times we are intent on doing some spiritual activity, but God presents a need before our eyes. In this case, Peter and John wanted to pray, but God wanted them to stop and help the Beautiful Beggar. In our lives we need to be ready to do God's will and lay our own plans aside.

The Beautiful Beggar was frequently laid at the Beautiful gate and begged alms there. Undoubtedly, he had watched many people go through that Beautiful Gate. Apparently, he made enough money to keep body and soul together. Yet his day had come.

The Beautiful Beggar expected to receive something from Peter and John. Peter and John were about to give the Beautiful Beggar the greatest of all gifts in the Name of Jesus.

Receive

1. **He**. The Beautiful Beggar responded to the command of Peter to look at them.

2. **Attention**. The Beautiful Beggar gave his attention to Peter and John.

3. **Expecting**. The Beautiful Beggar was expecting to receive something in his hope for alms.

4. **Receive**. The Beautiful Beggar begged there and received alms from other people.

5. **Something**. The Beautiful Beggar was hoping for something from Peter and John.

6. **From**. Living holy in the family of God means that people expect to receive something when they beg for money.

7. **Them**. We rejoice today because the Beautiful Beggar wanted alms from Peter and John, but he received something far more valuable than alms from them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by expecting God to exceed all our expectations.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by giving people the Gospel of Jesus Christ that they might receive eternal life.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by never being too busy to stop and spend time with someone in need.**

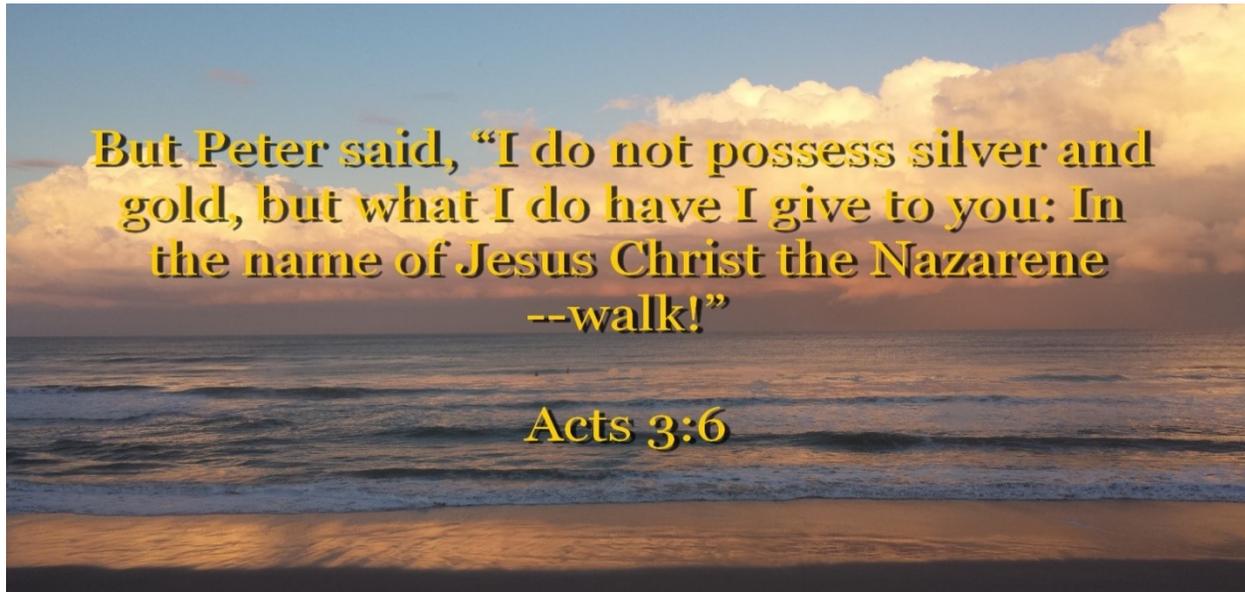
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by hearing the voices calling to us for help. Will you live holy in the family of God today by making time to give people more than they expect?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 79

Silver and Gold Today



What did Peter say to the Beautiful Beggar? Peter told him that he did not have any silver or gold but he gave him something far more valuable.

After commanding the Beautiful Beggar to look at Peter and John, Peter told the Beautiful Beggar that he would give him something he had. Peter had the power of God working through him. Therefore, Peter said to the Beautiful Beggar: “In the Name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene: Walk!”

By using the phrase “in the Name of Jesus Christ,” Peter told everyone listening that Jesus Christ was about to do a miracle through Peter and John. By naming the Lord Jesus Christ, Peter was proclaiming the power of the living Christ to everyone listening.

While the Beautiful Beggar expected alms, Peter and John gave him the power to walk for the first time in his life. From a physical perspective, the Beautiful Beggar had leg muscles that had never supported him. In an instant, his legs with all the ligaments and tendons and muscles and bones and blood vessels and nerves were all healed at once.

The Beautiful Beggar would never be the same because of the power of Jesus Christ. The Beautiful Beggar would be a living, standing testimony to the love of Jesus Christ.

Walk

1. **Peter**. Peter understood the true need of the Beautiful Beggar.
2. **Silver and Gold**. Peter did not have any silver or gold, in contrast to many famous preachers today.
3. **Have**. Peter said that I give what I have. Jesus had the power through Jesus Christ to make the Beautiful Beggar walk.
4. **Name**. Peter magnified the Name of Jesus Christ before he issued the command to walk.
5. **Jesus Christ**. Peter referred to Jesus as Jesus Christ, meaning Anointed Savior.
6. **Nazarene**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Jesus was a Nazarene, a place where people wondered if any good thing could come out of Nazareth.
7. **Walk**. We rejoice today because Peter issued the command to walk, knowing that the Lord Jesus would raise that Beautiful Beggar to his feet for the first time in his life.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by magnifying the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by helping other people in the Name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by expecting God to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.**

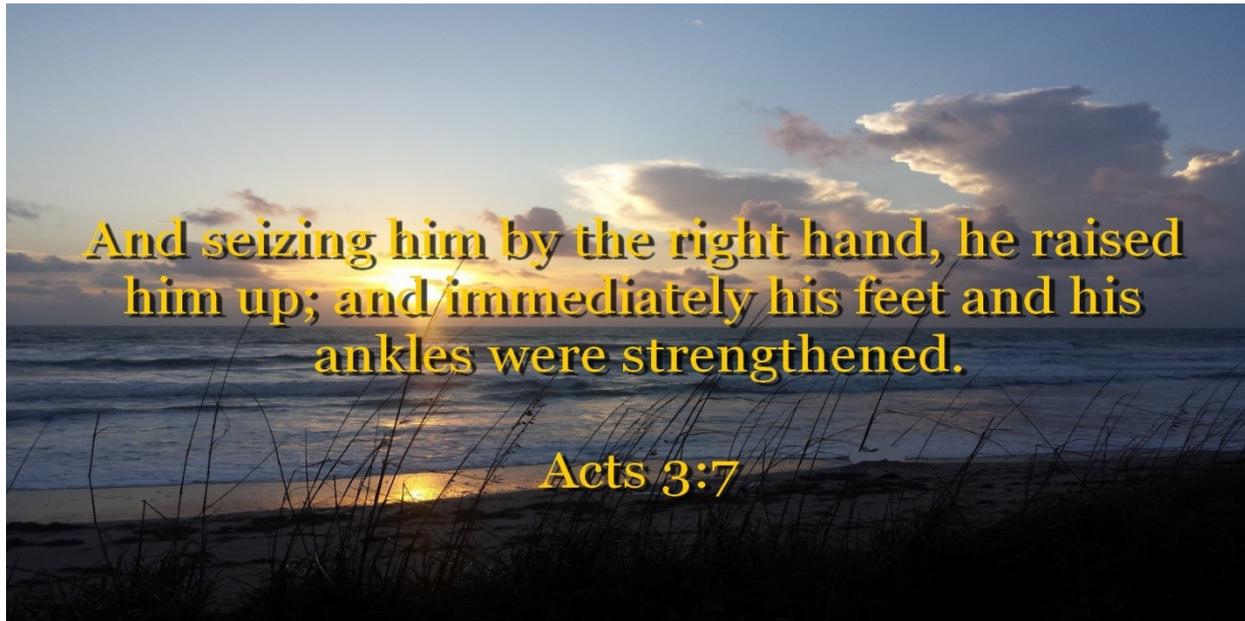
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by offering people what we already have in Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking time to help people experience the awesome power of Jesus Christ in their lives?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 80

Raised Today



What did Peter do after he commanded the Beautiful Beggar to walk? Peter seized him by the right hand.

Peter understood that God had the absolute power to strengthen the Beautiful Beggar to walk. Because of Peter's faith in the power of God, Peter commanded the Beautiful Beggar to walk.

Peter then seized the Beautiful Beggar by the hand and raised him up. Peter not only said the word, but he grabbed the man by the hand and raised him up. Peter knew that God wanted that man to walk right away.

God immediately strengthened the feet and ankles of the Beautiful Beggar. In an instant the Beautiful Beggar was made whole by the power of Jesus Christ. Everyone who knew the Beautiful Beggar would be amazed to see him walking on his own two feet.

Peter magnified the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit promotes the Name of Jesus Christ for salvation. God the Father reveals

Jesus Christ to people for salvation. God will get all the glory from the healing of the Beautiful Beggar.

Immediately

1. **Seizing**. How sure was Peter that the Beautiful Beggar would walk right away? Peter was so sure that he grabbed the right hand of the Beautiful Beggar and raised him up.

2. **Hand**. By grabbing the right hand, Peter lifted the Beautiful Beggar to his feet.

3. **Raised**. By raising the Beautiful Beggar to his feet in front of a crowd of people, the moment of truth for Peter and John came.

4. **Walk**. The Beautiful Beggar with a leap, stood upright. He began to walk for the first time in his life.

5. **Temple**. The Beautiful Beggar entered the Temple with Peter and John.

6. **Leaping**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Beautiful Beggar was leaping and walking into the Temple for the first time in his life.

7. **Praising**. We rejoice today because the Beautiful Beggar was praising God on his own two feet, walking and leaping like never before in his life.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the day when we were walking and leaping because we just received Jesus Christ as our Savior.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejoicing with people saved by faith in Jesus Christ as they walk and leap, praising God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by watching God make people stand up, walk and leap, with the sheer joy of knowing all of their sins have been forgiven in the Name of Jesus Christ.**

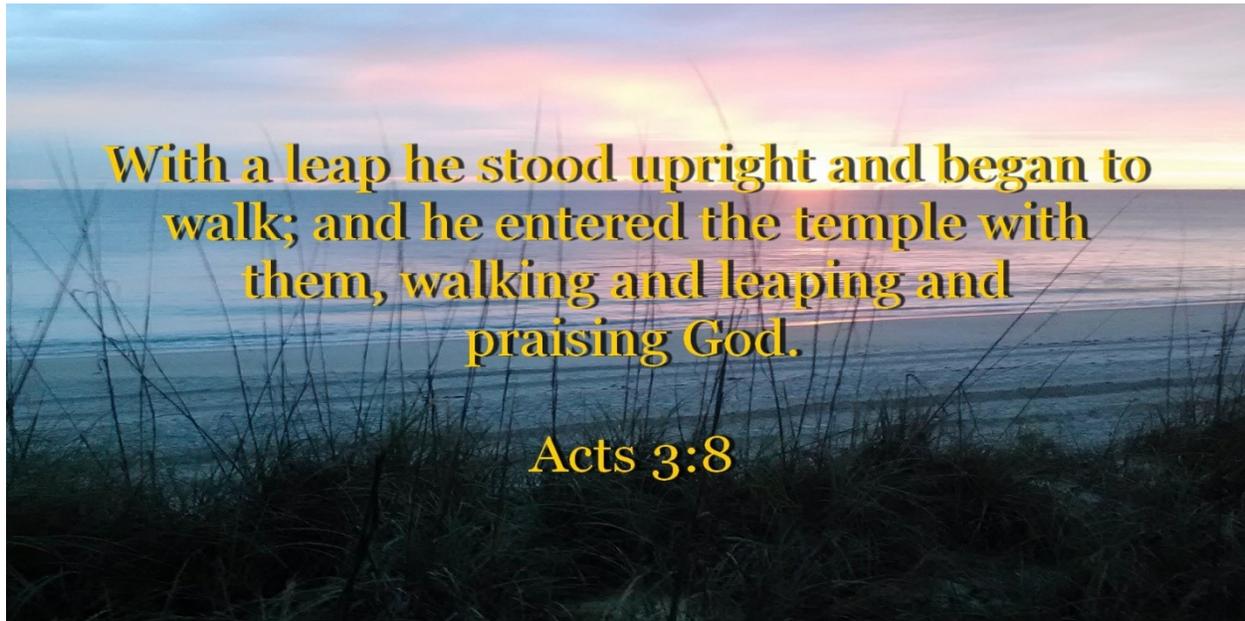
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by delighting in new believers walking and leaping about in their newfound faith. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the Beautiful Beggar praising God as he stood before the crowd on his own two feet for the first time in his life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 81

Leap Today



What happened after the Beautiful Beggar's feet and ankles were strengthened? With a leap he stood upright to walk.

Peter and John were entering the Temple at the hour of prayer. The Beautiful Beggar called out to them for alms. They replied they had no silver or gold, but they gave him a gift far greater. Peter grabbed his arm and lifted him up and God strengthened his feet and ankles instantly. With a leap he stood upright to walk and he entered the Temple with Peter and John. As he went, he was leaping and praising God.

God worked many public miracles, healing people that were well known for their infirmities. The Beautiful Beggar was laid by the gate Beautiful to beg for alms. But one day Peter and John came by and he was healed by the power of God. Everybody who knew he used to sit there now knew that he was standing upright by the power of God.

When God worked public miracles, the testimony of the person healed continued long after the miracle. The healed person becomes living

testimony of the power of God. The Beautiful Beggar walked and praised God with every step as he entered the Temple with Peter and John.

Walking and Leaping

1. **Leap**. The Beautiful Beggar leapt to his feet.
2. **Stood**. The Beautiful Beggar stood upright.
3. **Walk**. For the first time in his life, the Beautiful Beggar walked.
4. **Temple**. The first place the Beautiful Beggar walked was into the Temple.
5. **Walking**. The Beautiful Beggar entered the Temple with Peter and John, walking right beside them.
6. **Leaping**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the Beautiful Beggar leaping for the first time in his life.
7. **Praising**. We rejoice today because the Beautiful Beggar was praising God in the Temple for letting him walk for the first time in his life.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for the great things He has done in our lives, starting with salvation.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by never forgetting how our souls and spirits rejoiced in our newfound salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for his marvelous works, far beyond all that we can ask or think.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the Beautiful Beggar walking and leaping and praising God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that you can walk, leap and praise God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 82

Walking Today



Were there any witnesses to the Beautiful Beggar walking? All the people saw him walking and praising God.

God works public miracles so that His power will be made known. Not every lame person in Jerusalem was healed that day. Not every sick person at the Temple was made well that day. Not every hungry person was fed that day. God works as He deems best every day.

When Jesus went to the synagogue at Nazareth after His baptism, He reminded the congregation that God did not perform miracles for everyone. God performs miracles to achieve His purposes. God works to show His power and confirm the authority of His chosen messengers.

All the people who saw the Beautiful Beggar walking would understand that God used Peter and John to perform that miracle. God wanted people to listen to the words of Peter and John, particularly the Gospel of Jesus Christ which they proclaimed.

Praising God

1. **All**. All the people near the Beautiful Gate saw the Beautiful Beggar walking.
2. **People**. Many people there became eyewitnesses of a great miracle.
3. **Saw**. Those witnesses saw the power of God working through Peter and John.
4. **Him**. They knew that God had worked through Peter and John when they saw the Beautiful Beggar walking.
5. **Walking**. For the first time in his life, the Beautiful Beggar walked into the Temple and no one carried him.
6. **Praising**. Living holy in the family of God means that many witnesses watched the Beautiful Beggar walking and praising God.
7. **God**. We rejoice today because He still loves for people to praise Him for His great and loving power which He brings in the life of every saint.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that many witnesses saw the Beautiful Beggar standing up and walking for the first time in his life.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding why God works certain miracles to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by walking, leaping and praising God for the great miracles done before many witnesses.**

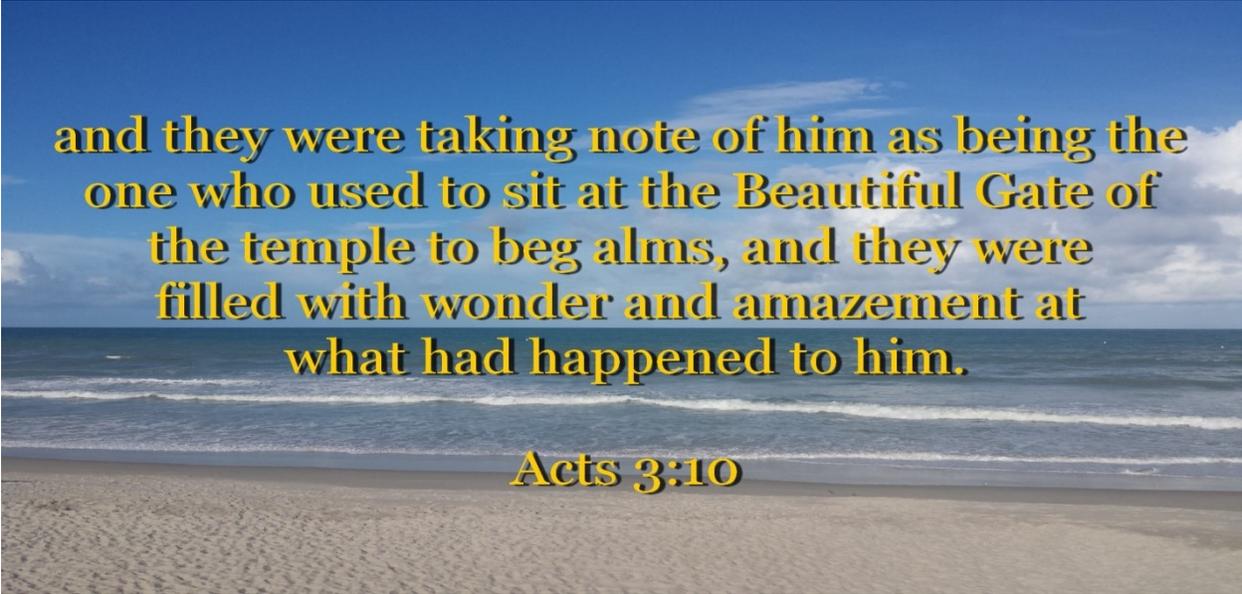
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the witnesses who watched God do miracles through the hands of the apostles. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in the power of God as attested by many eyewitnesses in the New Testament?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 83

Taking Note Today



and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Acts 3:10

What did the crowd take note of? The crowd took note that the Beautiful Beggar used to sit at the Beautiful Gate to beg alms, but now walked into the Temple on his own feet.

After watching the Beautiful Beggar stand up, leap, and walk into the Temple, praising God, the eyewitnesses were filled with wonder and amazement at what happened to him. God loves to draw attention to His message and His messengers. Having seen the miracle, the eyewitnesses naturally wanted to know more.

After a miracle occurs, evil forces may arise to claim credit for God's work. Imposters often claim that they are performing signs or wonders or miracles, but in fact they did not perform any such thing. They only sought to mislead and distract by counterfeiting the miracles of God.

When God works miracles, He often does so to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Miracles by themselves send no one to heaven. Salvation comes by faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, not by witnessing

miracles. God uses miracles so that people will understand His love and power for them.

Amazement

1. **Note.** The crowd of eyewitnesses took note of the Beautiful Beggar walking for the first time in his life.

2. **Him.** The crowd was looking at him, standing for the first time in his life, walking, leaping, and praising God.

3. **Sit.** The crowd knew that the Beautiful Beggar used to sit by the Beautiful Gate.

4. **Beautiful Gate.** The crowd would remember the Beautiful Gate because the Beautiful Beggar sat there often begging alms, but no more.

5. **Alms.** The Beautiful Beggar begged alms before, but now he walked and praised God, no longer unable to stand or walk.

6. **Wonder.** Living holy in the family of God means that God works miracles that fill the eyewitnesses with wonder at the loving power of God.

7. **Amazement.** We rejoice today because amazement filled the crowd who watched the Beautiful Beggar rise to his feet with a leap and then began praising God for his healing.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that eyewitnesses felt wonder and amazement seeing the Beautiful Beggar walking for the first time.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that He recorded the events around the healing of the Beautiful Beggar.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that the God who healed the Beautiful Beggar still heals people today.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving God more because He does wonderful and amazing things every day. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for the wonderful and amazing power He uses to His glory every day?

HALLELUJAH !

9

Peter's Beautiful Sermon Today

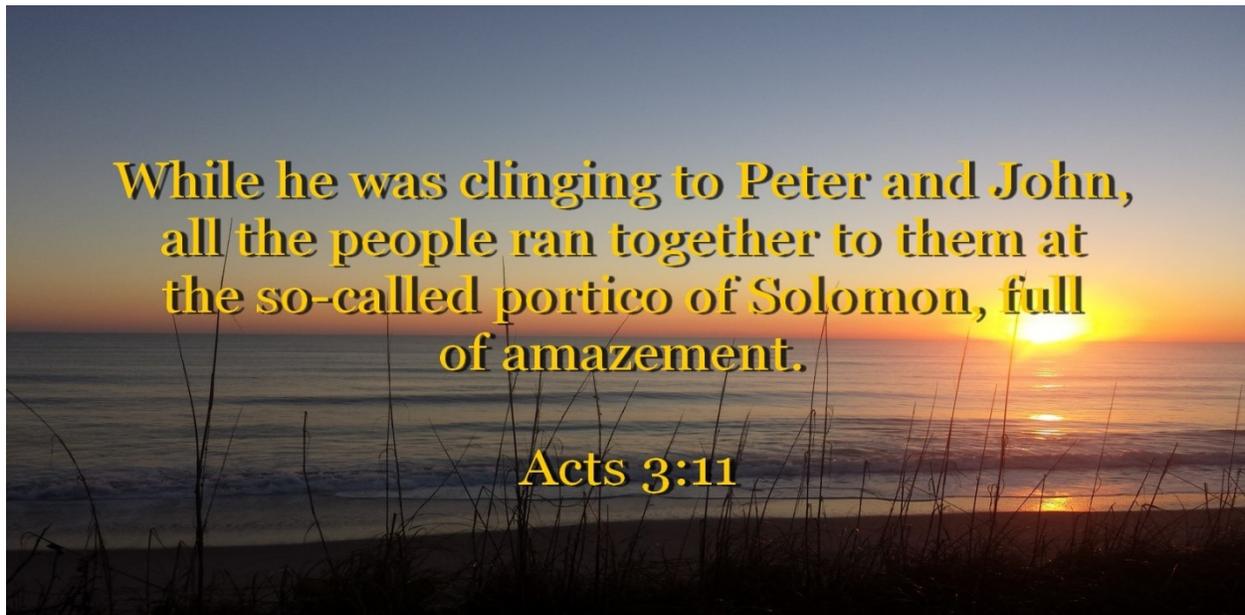
While the Beautiful Beggar clung to Peter and John, all the people ran to them in the portico of Solomon. Seeing the crowd, Peter addressed the men of Israel. Peter explained that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, the one whom you delivered and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. They disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be released. They put to death the Prince of Life, Whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which the apostles are witnesses. On the basis of faith alone in His Name, Jesus has strengthened this man whom you now see and know. Faith in Jesus has given the Beautiful Beggar this perfect health in the presence of everyone.

Peter explained that they acted in ignorance, just as their rulers had before them. God had announced before hand by the mouth of His prophets that His Christ would suffer, which Jesus fulfilled. Peter invited the people to repent and return to God, so that their sins would be wiped away, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. God will send Jesus, the Christ appointed for them, Whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things which God described by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time. In fact, Peter quoted Moses who said that the Lord will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. To Him you shall give heed. Every soul that does not obey Him shall be utterly destroyed from among the people. Likewise, all the prophets, from Samuel and onward, also announced these days. Peter told the crowd that they are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with their fathers. To God Abraham said in your seed all the families of the earth will be blessed. Therefore, for the Jews first, God raised up His servant and sent Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 84

Together Today



What was the Beautiful Beggar doing after he was healed? He was clinging to Peter and John.

Having witnessed the miracle, all the people ran together to Peter and John. They ran to the portico of Solomon. A portico is a covered walkway. Jesus walked in the Temple in the portico of Solomon.

The crowd gathering about Peter and John were full of amazement. Living proof of the power of God was standing right before them in the person of the Beautiful Beggar. For years he was laid by the Beautiful Gate, begging alms. Now he stood right before them on his own two feet, walking, leaping and praising God.

Many eyewitnesses witnessed the miracle. The wonder and amazement of God's power at work provided a tangible representation of the invisible God's presence. God worked miracles and provided signs to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God is not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to eternal life.

Portico of Solomon

1. **Clinging**. Who was clinging to Peter and John? The Beautiful Beggar was clinging to Peter and John after he was healed by God.
2. **People**. Many people witnessed the miracle.
3. **Ran**. Those witnesses ran to Peter and John, while the Beautiful Beggar was clinging to them.
4. **Portico**. They were in the portico of Solomon, a covered walkway in the Temple.
5. **Solomon**. That portico was associated with King Solomon who built the first Temple, long before the second Temple was built, where the people were standing that day.
6. **Full**. Living holy in the family of God means that the power of God makes people full of amazement at the things He does right before their eyes.
7. **Amazement**. We rejoice today because people full of amazement gather around people who will proclaim the word of God to them and urge them to be saved.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the Beautiful Beggar was clinging to Peter and John, standing on its own two feet for the first time in his life.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering too that the crowd was full of amazement as they ran to Peter and John and the Beautiful Beggar in the portico of Solomon.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for all the people He has raised up over many generations to praise God and worship Him forever.**

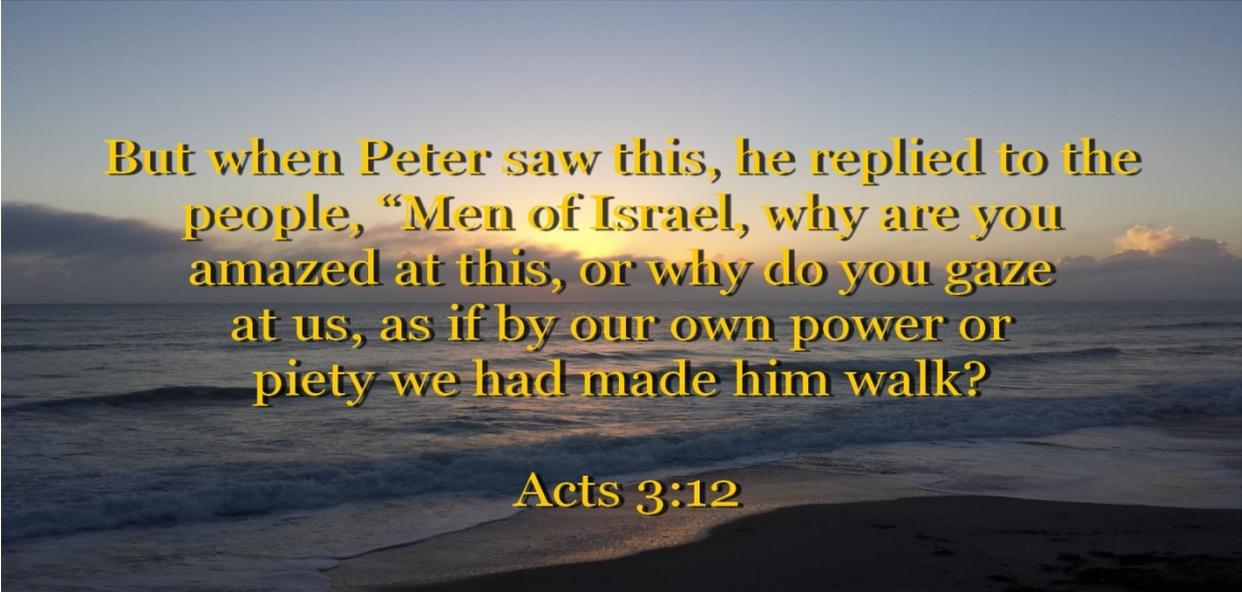
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus for continuing His ministry through Peter and John. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in the eyewitness testimony of the crowd that watched the Beautiful Beggar clinging to Peter and John while he stood on his feet, leaping and praising God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 85

Amazed Today



But when Peter saw this, he replied to the people, “Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk?”

Acts 3:12

Do some people try to take credit for God’s miracles? Peter and John made sure that God got all the glory for the Beautiful Beggar standing on his own feet.

As the crowd of eyewitnesses rushed towards Peter and John in the portico of Solomon, Peter asked a very pertinent question. He focused the attention of the crowd away from himself and John and towards God.

Peter understood that the crowd might worship Peter and John instead of God. Peter took immediate action to deny that their own power or piety had made the man walk. Peter diffused the crowd focusing upon the men through whom God performed the healing. Peter did not want an explosion of testimony focusing upon Peter and John and their power and piety.

People often confuse the instruments that God used to manifest His power and heal people with God Himself. When men accept the glory of God for themselves, they sin because God shares His glory with no one and no one should pretend to be God just because God works miracles through their hands.

Power or Piety

1. **Peter**. Peter replied to the crowd gathered around him at the portico of Solomon.

2. **Saw**. The crowd had seen the Beautiful Beggar stand on his feet for the first time and came rushing to Peter and John.

3. **Men**. The men of Israel were amazed fully by what they had seen and did not understand exactly what happened.

4. **Amazed**. When God manifests His power, people are often amazed.

5. **Gaze**. Peter asked the crowd why they were gazing at Peter and John.

6. **Power**. Living holy in the family of God means that we never accept the worship of people because only God deserves our worship. His power, not our power and not our piety, heals people today.

7. **Piety**. We rejoice today because our personal piety is certainly a good thing, but should never be confused with the power of God Who works miracles.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by never accepting the worship of people.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by never confusing who does the miracles.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by always directing the attention of people to God and not to our own power or personal piety.**

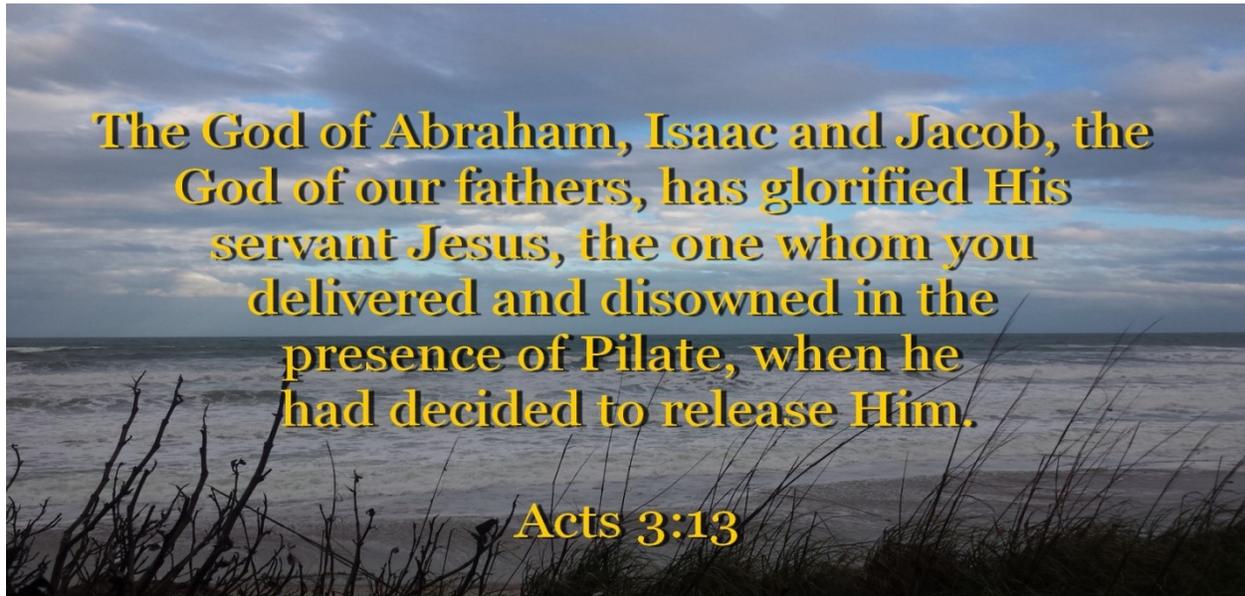
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the power of God and directing people away from glorifying us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by making sure that God gets all the glory when He exercises His power through us?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 86

Glorified Today



What did Peter say? Peter declared that the crowd delivered and disowned Jesus, the Servant of God.

Peter addressed the men of Israel about the miracle of the Beautiful Beggar. The crowd had seen the Beautiful Beggar walking for the first time in his life and they were filled with amazement. Peter stood up and addressed them, starting with his reference to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Peter was very familiar with the history of Israel and used that history to expose the crowd as guilty of the blood of Jesus, the Servant of Yahweh.

Peter specifically declared that the crowd delivered and disowned Jesus, the Servant of Yahweh, in the presence of Pilate. When Pilate had decided to release Jesus, the Servant of Yahweh, the people clamored for His crucifixion. God glorified Jesus, but the crowd rejected Him as Messiah.

The Holy Spirit convicted the crowd of sin through the preaching of Peter. God convicts the heart of sin, so that the sinner understands they need a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord. The crowd was coming to that moment of

decision about salvation by faith in Christ, all because of the miracle of the Beautiful Beggar.

Delivered and Disowned

1. **God**. How did Peter describe God? Peter described God as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

2. **Fathers**. They were the fathers of the men of Israel standing before Peter and God Himself.

3. **Glorified**. God glorified Jesus, the Nazarene.

4. **Servant**. Peter described Jesus as the Servant Whom God glorified, and God does not share His glory with anyone.

5. **Delivered**. Peter declared that the crowd delivered Jesus, the Servant of God, to the Romans for punishment.

6. **Disowned**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the Jews disowned Jesus in the presence of the Roman governor, Pilate.

7. **Pilate**. We rejoice today because Jesus rose from the dead, after being crucified. Pilate was willing to release Jesus, but the crowd demanded that Jesus be crucified.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus is the Servant of Yahweh.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus, the Servant Whom God glorified.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that the Holy Spirit convicts people of their sin and guilt for crucifying Jesus.**

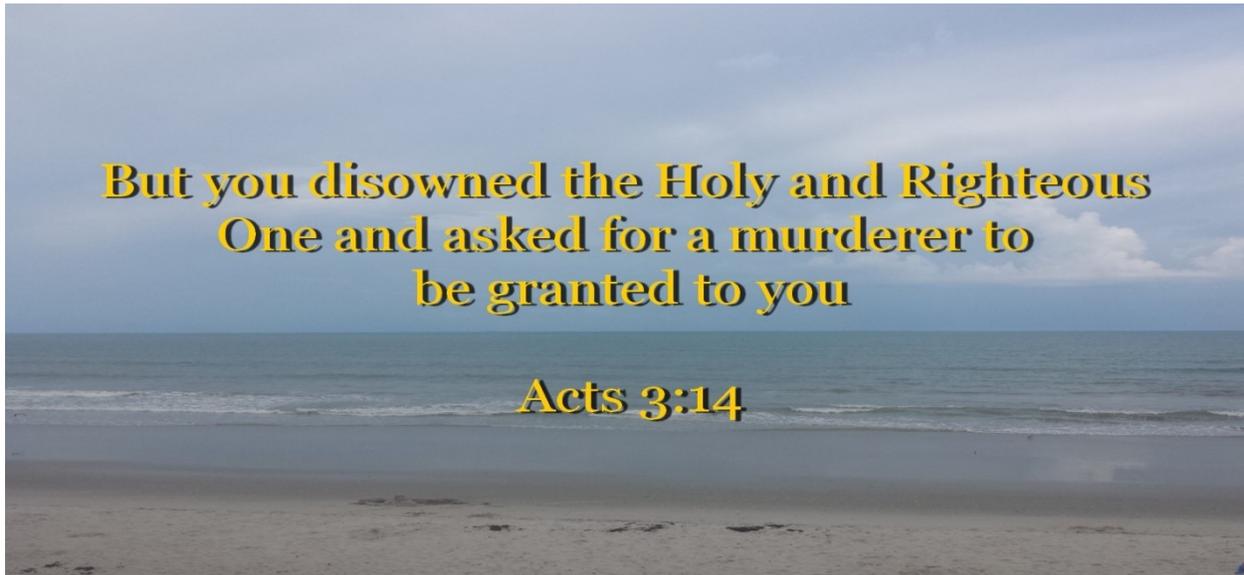
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for glorifying His Servant, Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people who crucified Jesus, the Servant of Yahweh?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 87

Disowned Today



How did Peter convict the crowd of their sin regarding Jesus? Peter reminded them that they disowned the Holy and Righteous One, Jesus.

As Peter continued preaching to the crowd gathered around him because they had witnessed the healing of the Beautiful Beggar, Peter reminded the crowd about how they treated Jesus.

Peter declared that the crowd had disowned the Holy and Righteous One, Jesus. Peter, speaking under the control of the Holy Spirit, described Jesus as the Holy and Righteous One. Jesus had done nothing to warrant crucifixion or any punishment at all. In fact, Jesus was God in the flesh and sinless. Even so, the crowd crucified Jesus.

Peter continued saying that the crowd not only disowned Jesus, but they compounded their sin by asking for a murderer to be released to them. Their actions of asking for a known murderer completely exposed their sin and hatred of Jesus, the Servant of Yahweh, glorified by God.

Peter preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the crowd so that they would be saved. We understand from Peter how the working of a miracle directly related to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Asked for a Murderer

1. **You**. What charge regarding Jesus did Peter bring against the crowd? Peter charged the crowd with wrongfully killing Jesus.
2. **Disowned**. Peter reminded the crowd that they disowned Jesus.
3. **Holy**. Actually, Jesus was the Holy One of God.
4. **Righteous**. Jesus was also the Righteous One of God.
5. **Asked**. Instead of seeking the release of Jesus from Pilate, the crowd asked for something else.
6. **Murderer**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the crowd demanded the release of a murderer, Barabbas, and the crucifixion of Jesus.
7. **Granted**. We rejoice today because Jesus triumphed over death, even after Pilate granted the request of the crowd for the crucifixion of Jesus.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that we are all responsible for the murder of Jesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for His grace and bringing us to salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for loving the people who disowned Jesus and crucified Him.**

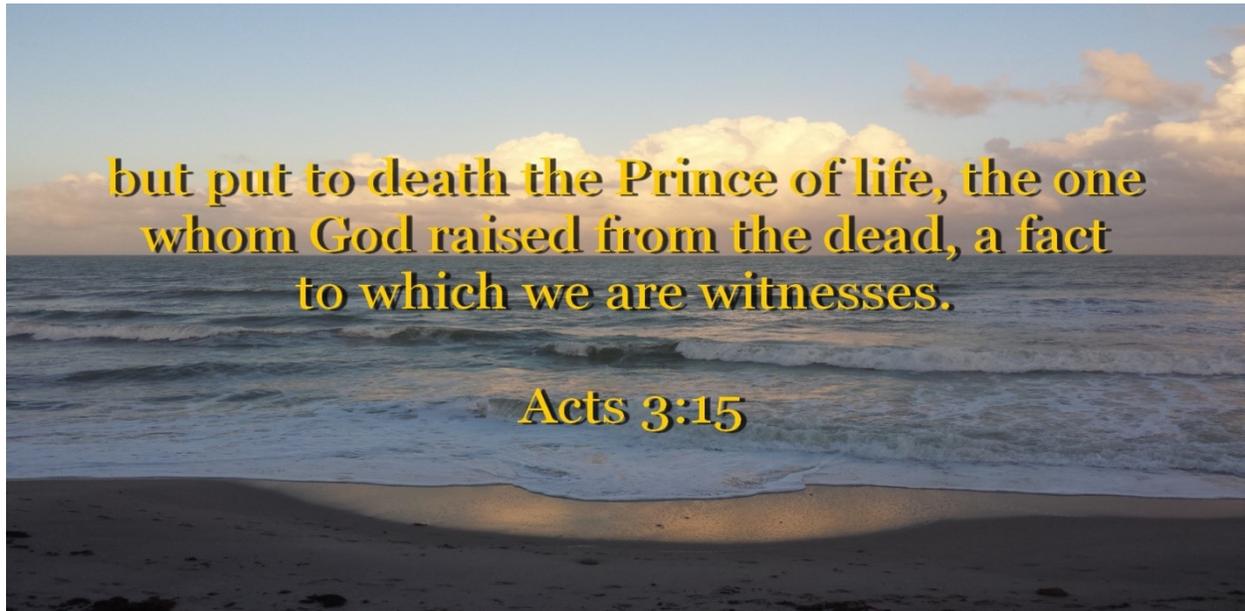
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His great love and bringing many sons to glory. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the people who disowned Jesus?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 88

Raised Today



What happened to the Prince of Life? The Jews put to death the Prince of Life.

Peter confronted the Jews with the fact that they put the Prince of Life, Jesus, to death. Death, however, could not hold Jesus because He is God. God raised Jesus from the dead, providing proof for all men that Jesus is the Anointed One of God.

Peter, preaching under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, confronted the crowd of Jews with their sin against God. They disowned Jesus and requested that a murderer be granted to them. Pilate was willing to release Jesus, but they demanded the crucifixion of Jesus. Peter preached a message full of conviction to a crowd full of amazement at the miracle they had seen with the Beautiful Beggar.

Peter pressed home his message by reminding the crowd that they were all witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus. The Holy Spirit was speaking through Peter and convicting their hearts. The unmistakable evidence

proved that the Jews were guilty of the murder of Jesus Christ, the Son of God Whom they rejected and disowned.

Witnesses

1. **Death**. Who put Jesus to death? The Jews standing before Peter put Jesus to death.

2. **Prince**. Peter described Jesus as the Prince of Life.

3. **God**. Death could not hold the Prince of Life. God raised Jesus from the dead.

4. **Raised**. The apostles were eyewitnesses of the resurrected Jesus. God raised Jesus from the dead and Jesus appeared to many people over the course of 40 days.

5. **Dead**. Jesus truly died for the sins of the world. God raised Him from the dead and Jesus appeared to many people.

6. **All**. Living holy in the family of God means that all the people were witnesses of the power of Jesus Christ working among them because he was the resurrected Lord, the Prince of Life.

7. **Witnesses**. We rejoice today because many witnesses testified to the resurrected Christ and His power, particularly with the healing of the Beautiful Beggar.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus is the Prince of Life.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God for raising Jesus from the dead.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for His grace to all of us through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord.**

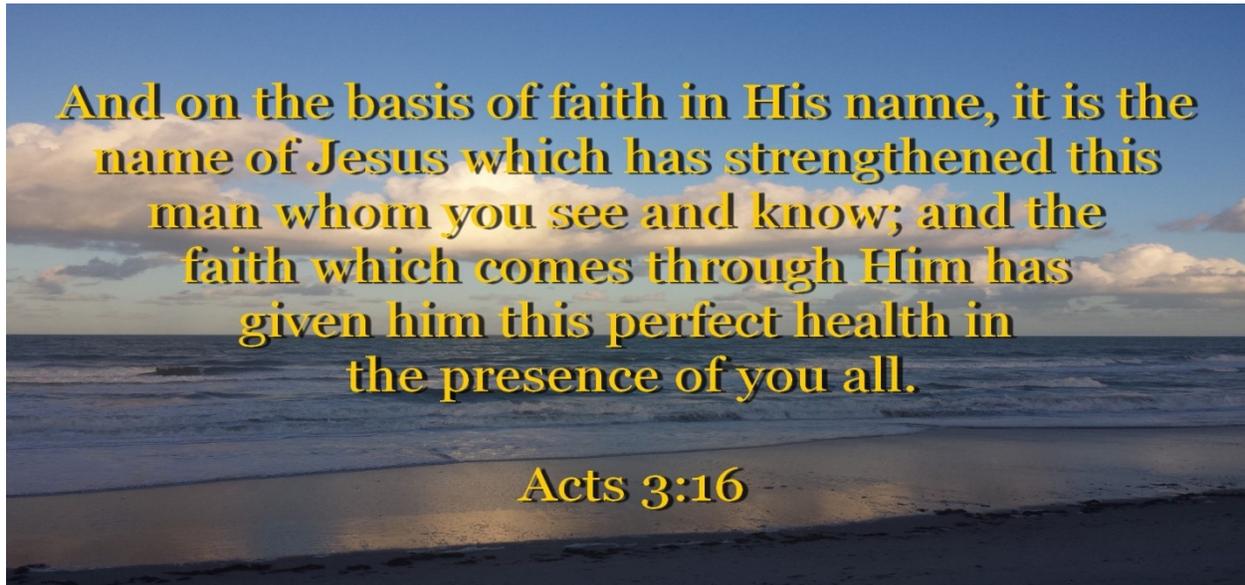
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that the Prince of Life lives within us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to take care of you not only during this life on earth, but for life eternal?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 89

Faith Today



How was the Beautiful Beggar healed? He was healed on the basis of faith in the Name of Jesus.

In this case, the faith of Peter and John healed the Beautiful Beggar. Peter and John had faith in the Name of Jesus. The Name of Jesus strengthened the Beautiful Beggar. The crowd was an eyewitness of the power of Jesus at work. Yet, the crowd may not have understood that the Beautiful Beggar was healed through the Name of Jesus Christ.

The faith which comes through Jesus gave the Beautiful Beggar perfect health. Jesus did that in the presence of the whole crowd. They were eyewitnesses of the power of Jesus at work. The crowd knew the Beautiful Beggar and now they knew that he had been strengthened and healed. In fact, the Beautiful Beggar enjoyed perfect health, and everyone could see it for themselves.

Peter preached the sermon to lead the crowd to salvation in the Name of Jesus Christ. Peter received the words he spoke from the Holy Spirit. God loves the crowd and does not want anyone to perish, but for all to come to

repentance. Peter's message focused the attention of the crowd upon their sin, their rejection of Jesus Christ, and the power of Jesus to heal because He is alive.

Perfect Health

1. **Basis**. On what basis was the Beautiful Beggar healed? The Beautiful Beggar was healed on the basis of faith and the Name of Jesus Christ.
2. **Faith**. Faith provided the means for healing.
3. **Name**. Faith was centered upon the Name of Jesus Christ. Following the Old Testament tradition, the name of a person was extremely important because the name was the symbol of that person, for good or bad.
4. **Strengthened**. Faith in the Name of Jesus Christ strengthened the Beautiful Beggar.
5. **See**. The entire crowd could see the Beautiful Beggar standing right in front of them, and the crowd knew who he was.
6. **Health**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus healed the Beautiful Beggar and put him in perfect health, all before many witnesses.
7. **Presence**. We rejoice today because Jesus worked a miracle for the Beautiful Beggar in the presence of many people so that all of them would be eyewitnesses of the power of faith in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the power of the Name of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the power of Jesus Christ works by faith in the Name of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for giving perfect health to the Beautiful Beggar through faith in the Name of Jesus Christ.**

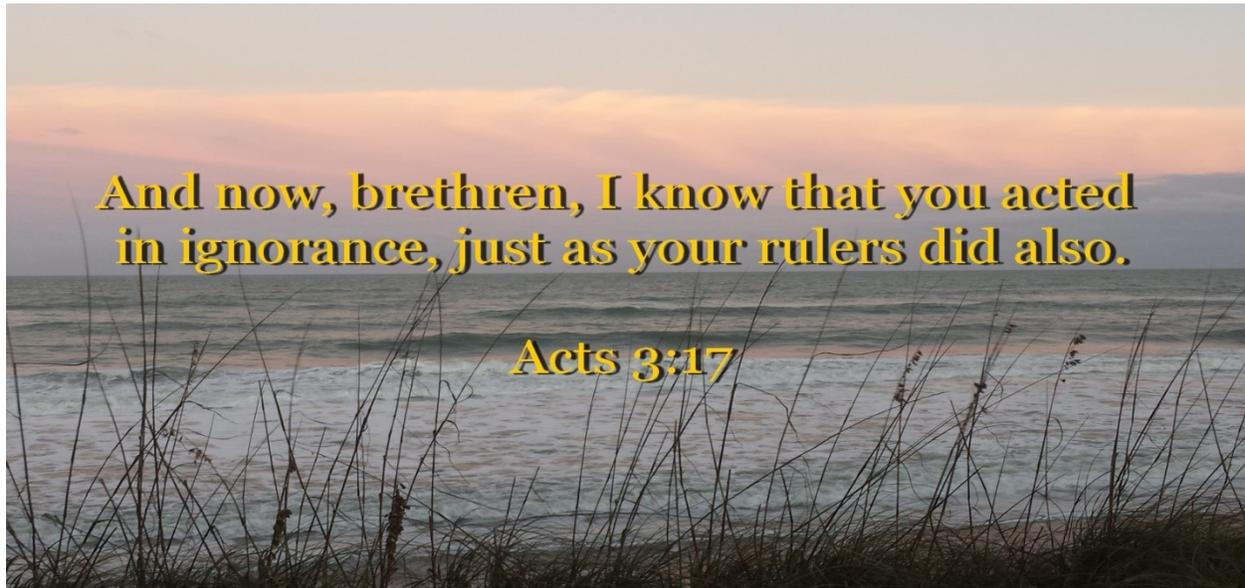
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by delighting in Jesus who loves to heal people in front of crowds so that all may believe in the Name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. Will you live holy in the family of God today by counting upon the power of the Name of Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 90

Ignorance Today



What did Peter know about the crowd? Peter knew that they acted in ignorance towards Christ.

Peter charged the crowd with the murder of Jesus Christ, but then said that they acted in ignorance. Likewise, Peter said that the rulers acted in ignorance.

Jesus came into the world, but the world did not receive Him. He was the Light of the world, but the world preferred the darkness. For some by faith in His Name, they received Him as Savior. To them He gave the right to become children of God.

Peter had already seen three thousand people saved out of one crowd on one day. God had already been working through Peter as he preached. Peter explained to the crowds what they were watching. Jesus was alive and doing miracles right in front of them.

God healed the Beautiful Beggar in the presence of the crowd so that Peter could preach to them and expose them for disowning the Servant of

God. God being gracious was giving the crowd another opportunity to have faith in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Rulers

1. **Now**. What did Peter now know about the crowd? Peter knew that they acted in ignorance when they sought to crucify Jesus.

2. **Brethren**. Peter called them brethren because they were his kinsmen according to the flesh.

3. **Know**. Peter had first-hand knowledge that they acted in ignorance because they did not recognize the Christ or hear His words.

4. **Acted**. Peter described how the crowd acted toward Jesus and placed the spiritual blame upon the crowd for crucifying Jesus.

5. **Ignorance**. Jesus came to His own and His own did not receive Him. Jesus created every person in the crowd, but in ignorance they rejected Him because they never knew the Father Who sent Jesus into the world.

6. **Rulers**. Living holy in the family of God means that even rulers rejected Jesus in ignorance.

7. **Also**. We rejoice today because even when the rulers acted in ignorance when they called for Jesus to be crucified, Jesus still offered grace and mercy to all people who would call upon His Name for salvation.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that some people act in ignorance when they reject Christ as Savior.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by helping people understand that Jesus lives today because God raised Him from the dead.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another to share God's love, grace and mercy with people who live in ignorance of the salvation by faith in the Name of Jesus Christ.**

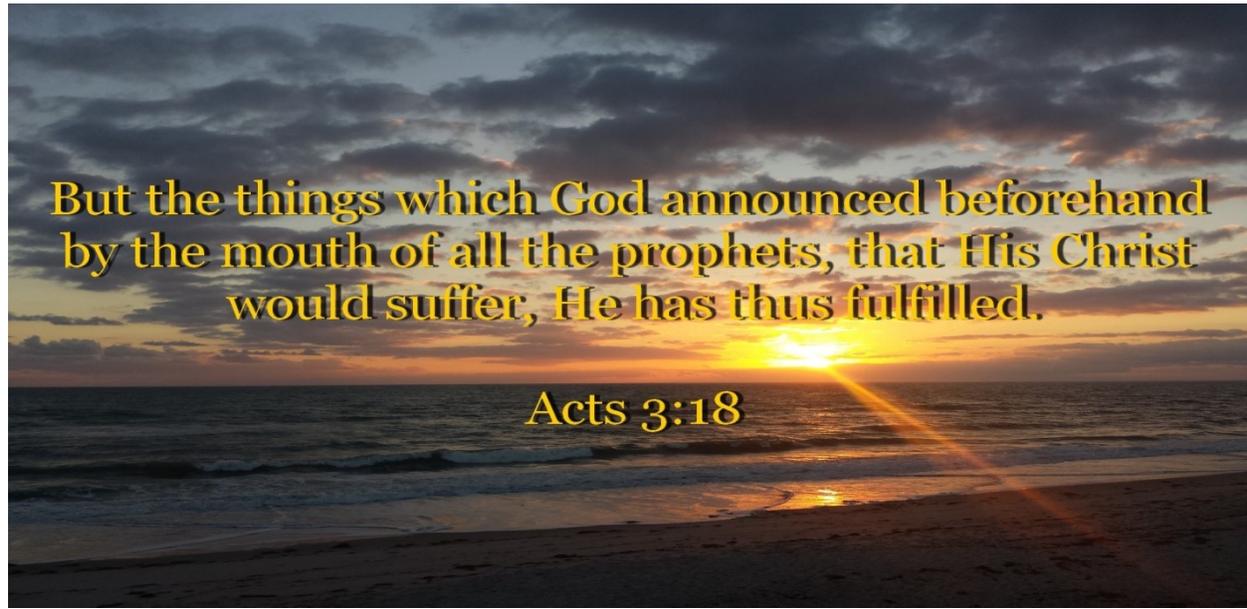
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that some people act in ignorance towards Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by overcoming the ignorance of people about Jesus by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 91

All the Prophets Today



How many Old Testament prophets announced that Christ would suffer? All the Old Testament prophets announced that Christ would suffer.

Peter preached to the crowd gathered around him and John. The crowd had gathered because the Lord Jesus had just healed the Beautiful Beggar and the crowd took notice. Peter then authoritatively applied previous Scripture to the event at hand.

Peter explained that all the prophets before him had announced that the Christ of God would suffer. Peter meant that every prophet spoke about the suffering of Christ, not just a few. The crowd before Peter had no idea that the Christ would suffer, because they did not understand the Old Testament prophecies about Christ. Please recall that Christ means the One anointed by God.

Jesus the Nazarene was the Anointed One of God. He fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament concerning the Messiah. Jesus came and suffered, died and then God raised Him from the dead. By the power of Jesus Christ the Beautiful Beggar was healed. Peter frequently connected the Old

Testament and its prophecies to the events taking place at that moment, thus demonstrating the Spiritual Gift of the Word of Knowledge (the authoritative application of Scripture to the present).

Fulfilled

1. **God.** What did God reveal? God revealed things to the prophets and they spoke as the Holy Spirit moved them.

2. **Announced.** When God revealed things to the prophets, they announced God's plans for the future.

3. **Prophets.** All the prophets announced that the Anointed One of God, Christ, would suffer.

4. **His.** The term "Christ" means anointed one in Hebrew. So when God says "His Christ," God means that He anointed Jesus as His One and Only Christ, the Savior of the world.

5. **Christ.** God anointed Jesus as the Christ.

6. **Suffer.** Living holy in the family of God means that we should remember that all the Old Testament prophets announced that Christ would suffer, looking forward to Jesus fulfilling all those prophecies

7. **Fulfilled.** We rejoice today because Jesus fulfilled all of the prophecies about the Christ suffering, and He suffered because He loved us and gave Himself for us.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that all the prophets of the Old Testament announced that Christ would suffer.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His divine plan of redemption focused in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for Jesus our Lord and His willingness to suffer at the hands of the children He created.**

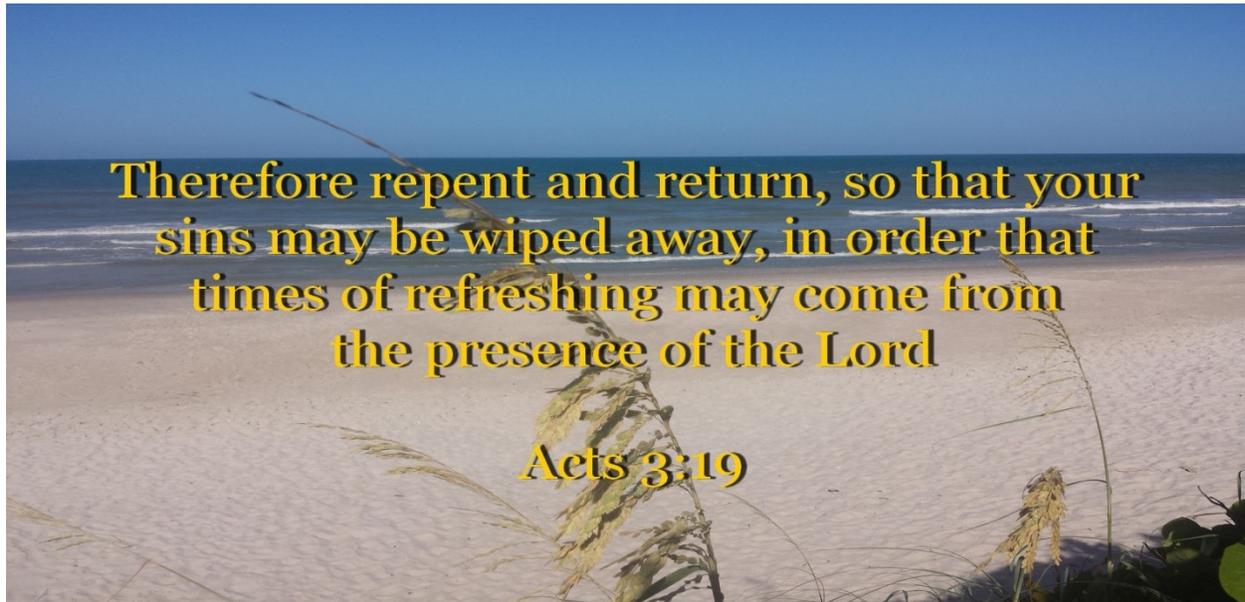
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by looking back at the Old Testament prophecies and remembering that every Old Testament prophet spoke about Christ suffering. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking Jesus that He suffered for us, according to the Scriptures?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 92

Repent Today



What did Peter urge the crowd to do? Peter urged the crowd to repent and return.

The crowd watched a great miracle. The Beautiful Beggar stood on his own two feet for the first time in his life and they all watched the miracle happen before their eyes. They gathered around Peter and James and the Beautiful Beggar filled with amazement.

Peter seized the opportunity and began preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them. Peter emphasized that they must repent and return to the Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Peter explained that if they would return and repent, then their sins would be wiped away. Peter proclaimed salvation through Jesus Christ, the risen Lord Whom they had crucified.

If the crowd would return and repent, Peter prophesied that times of refreshing would come. The presence of the Lord would be among them and

He would refresh them. Peter emphasized to them the practical results of salvation.

Refreshing

1. **Repent**. What did Peter preach about repentance? Peter preached repentance, which means to change your mind.

2. **Return**. Peter also preached returning to the Lord. The spiritual change of mind must be accompanied by a change of behavior as well.

3. **Sins**. If they repented and returned, then God would deal with their sins.

4. **Wiped**. God promised that their sins would be wiped away.

5. **Times**. God further promised that times would change and better times were coming.

6. **Refreshing**. Living holy in the family of God means that God provides refreshing times for all believers.

7. **Presence**. We rejoice today because with the presence of Jesus comes the refreshing from the Lord.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by looking forward to times of refreshing in the presence of the Lord.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by urging people to repent and return to the Lord.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another by looking forward to the presence of Jesus among us as He brings His kingdom to the earth.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the refreshment He brought into our lives after wiping away our sins. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in Jesus, longing for the day we will stand in His presence holy and blameless because He wiped away our sins?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 93

The Christ Today



Who is Jesus? He is the Christ appointed for Israel.

Peter explained first the ignorance of the crowd who had crucified Jesus, the Prince of Life. Peter then showed the crowd that they were guilty of the blood of Christ. Jesus was the Christ (“Anointed One”) God appointed for the Jews.

Peter then urged the crowd to repent and return to the Lord, so that times of refreshing may come in the presence of the Lord. Peter looked forward to the day that Christ would return to earth, after God the Father had made His enemies a footstool for His feet.

Peter tied the future to the present. He looked forward to Christ being present on earth with the saints. That time would be refreshing for all the saints. On that basis, Peter urged the crowd to repent of their sins and return to the Lord.

The times of refreshing come from the Lord. So, even before His physical presence comes to earth, His spiritual presence brings refreshment immediately for everyone whose sins have been wiped away by God.

Appointed

1. **He**. Who will send the Anointed One? God said He will send the Anointed One (Christ).

2. **Send**. God sent Jesus into the world, knowing that the people of Israel would reject Jesus and crucify Him.

3. **Jesus**. Jesus (“Savior”) will be sent into the world, just as God sent Jesus into the world to be the Suffering Servant Who died for the sins of the world and so wiped away their sins by faith in Him.

4. **The**. Jesus is “the” One appointed by God to be the Christ, Jesus our Lord.

5. **Christ**. God appointed Jesus to be the Christ (“Anointed One”).

6. **Appointed**. Living holy in the family of God means that we delight in Jesus, the Christ appointed for salvation of both Jews and Gentiles.

7. **You**. We rejoice today because we were the beneficiaries of Christ coming to earth as the One appointed by God to be our “Christ,” Jesus our Savior.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the epochs of refreshing may come through Jesus and His free gift to us of salvation by faith.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by looking forward to God sending Jesus back to earth to establish His Millennial Kingdom.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the refreshment He brings into our lives at the proper time, all according to His perfect plans.**

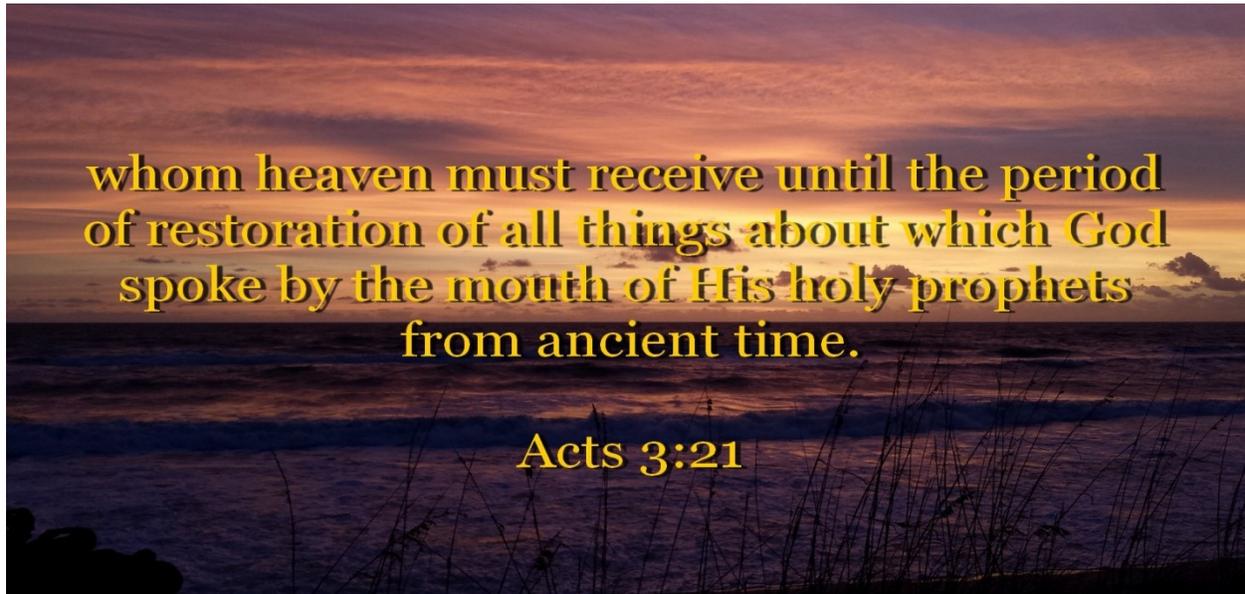
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for proving the same Christ for both Jews and Gentiles. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering Jesus, the Christ appointed for us?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 94

Restoration Today



How long must heaven receive Jesus? Heaven must receive Jesus until the times of restoration of all things.

God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from the age of the prophets. They spoke about the times of restoration.

Peter revealed that all the prophets proclaimed that Jesus must suffer, but holy prophets of God also proclaimed a time of restoration of all things. Sin had polluted the world, but God would provide a time of restoration.

Jesus will come back to earth and all creation groans together, awaiting the return of Christ Who will restore all things. He will establish His Millennial Kingdom, and sit upon David's throne in Jerusalem. Until that return, Jesus will be sitting at the right hand of God the Father in heaven.

Peter applied many prophecies from the Old Testament with the authority of God. The Spiritual Gift of the Word of Knowledge means the authoritative application of Scripture. So, Peter was applying the words of God spoken through the Old Testament prophets to the crowd before Him.

Holy Prophets

1. **Heaven**. What did Peter say about heaven? Peter proclaimed that heaven must receive Jesus.
2. **Receive**. Jesus ascended back to heaven and heaven received Him as one coming home.
3. **Period**. The term “period” describes times.
4. **Restoration**. In the future, God stated that times (notice the plural) of restoration will come.
5. **All**. Peter declared that all the prophets spoke about the times of restoration.
6. **Prophets**. Living holy in the family of God means that all the prophets of the Old Testament spoke about times of restoration coming.
7. **Ancient**. We rejoice today because God spoke about restoration by the mouth of the Holy prophets from the age of the prophets.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by looking forward to the restoration promised by God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that all the prophets spoke about the times of restoration of all things.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the restoration of all things, as God spoke by the mouth of the prophets in the age of the prophets.**

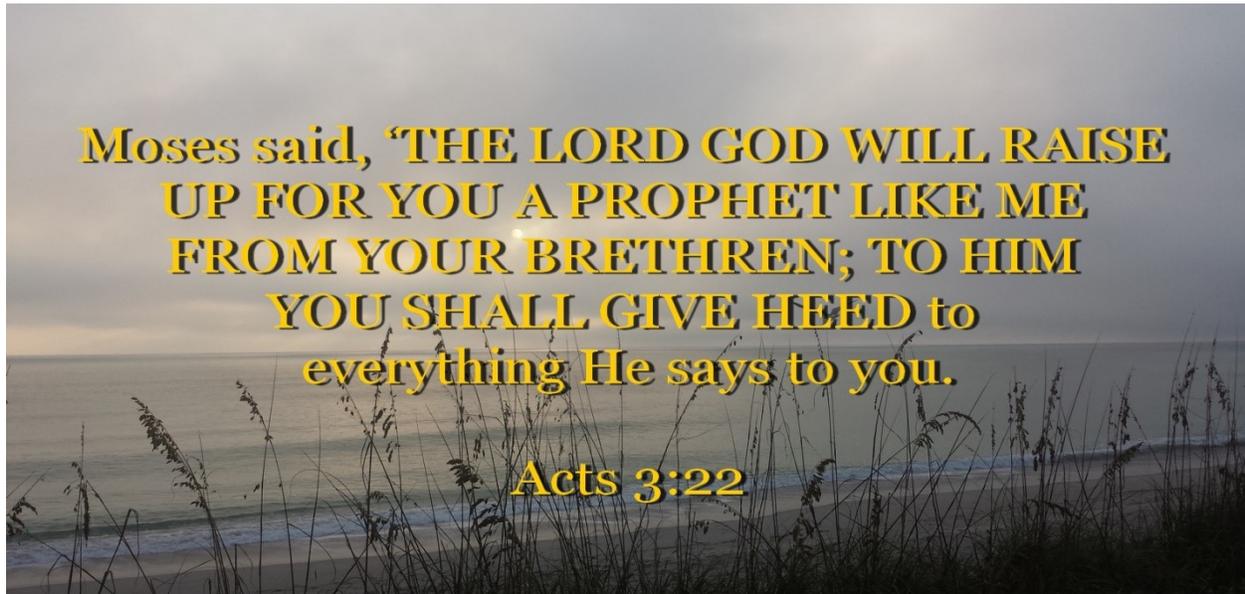
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by looking forward to the times of restoration. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the words of the prophets concerning the times of restoration to come?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 95

Moses Today



What did Moses say about a prophet arising? Moses prophesied that Yahweh would raise up a prophet like Moses from among the brethren.

God used Moses to lead His people out of their captivity in Egypt. He also prophesied about a future Prophet. God would raise up a Prophet like Moses from among the people of Israel. Christ fulfilled that prophecy by being born of Mary, in the lineage of David.

When Jesus, the Christ of God appeared, the people were commanded to give heed to Christ. In everything Christ says, they were to listen carefully and obey His words.

In fact, when Christ appeared, having been born of the virgin Mary, the people of Israel rejected Christ in ignorance. They did not understand that Jesus was the Christ. They also crucified the Lord of Glory.

Jesus spoke about many things. The people rejected Jesus and His words. They also saw Him perform many works of powers, with signs and wonders. Even so, the people of Israel rejected and disowned Jesus, the

Savior sent from God to save people from their sins. Jesus would wipe those sins away by giving His life for the life of sinners.

Give Heed

1. **Moses**. Where will the Prophet come from? Yahweh God will raise up a Prophet from among the brethren.

2. **Yahweh**. Yahweh God will raise up the Prophet.

3. **Raise**. Raise up means that the Yahweh God will cause the Prophet to arise from among men, meaning He will be a real man, with real flesh and blood.

4. **Me**. The Prophet will be a man like Moses.

5. **Brethren**. The Prophet will arise from the people of Israel, meaning that Jesus was a Jew, given as the Christ to the people of Israel.

6. **Heed**. Living holy in the family of God means that all people must give heed to the Prophet.

7. **Everything**. We rejoice today because the Prophet, Jesus, came and spoke the words of eternal life and we all have received of His grace.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the prophecy of Moses about the Prophet Whom Yahweh God will send.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God for sending Jesus, the Prophet Moses described.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving God for the words He spoke through Moses and other prophets about the Prophet Jesus that would arise from among the people.**

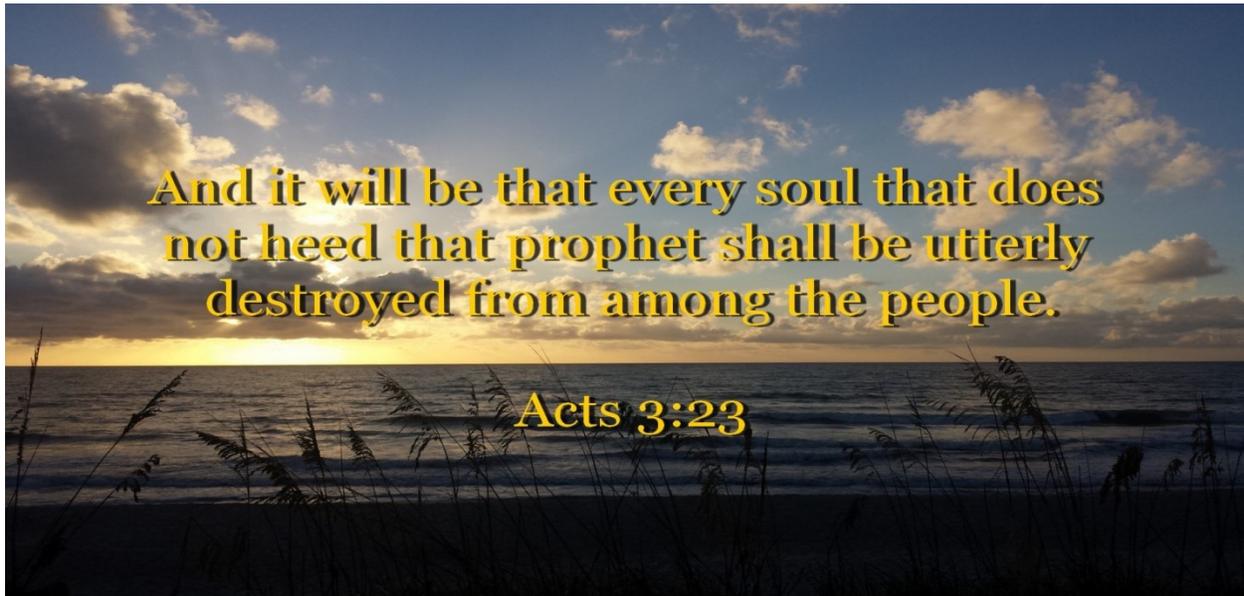
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving Jesus more because we must give heed to everything He says. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping Jesus for giving to us the words of eternal life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 96

Every Soul Today



What happens to every soul that does not heed the words of that Prophet? They shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.

Peter preached to the crowd that saw the Beautiful Beggar healed before their eyes. Peter linked several Old Testament passages to what happened with the Beautiful Beggar.

Peter quoted the prophecy from Moses who wrote that another Prophet like him would arise from among the brethren. Moses spoke about Christ Jesus. Moses continued that whoever did not heed the words of that Prophet would be utterly destroyed.

Jesus was the Prophet Moses spoke about. Peter told the crowd of Jews before that they had acted in ignorance in disowning and crucifying the Lord Jesus Christ. He also called upon them to repent and receive Christ the Savior.

Peter understood the urgency for calling upon Christ as Savior. Peter knew that trouble was coming, because the devil always opposes the work of Christ.

Destroyed

1. **Soul**. What did Moses write about souls? Moses wrote about souls heeding the Prophet.

2. **Heed**. Heed means to pay attention to and to put into action.

3. **Prophet**. Moses wrote about Jesus, the Prophet Who would arise from among the people of Israel.

4. **Utterly**. Moses also described the penalty for not heeding Jesus.

5. **Destroyed**. All the people who do not heed Jesus would be utterly destroyed.

6. **Among**. Living holy in the family of God means that everyone who did not heed Jesus would be destroyed from among the people of Israel.

7. **People**. We rejoice today because Jesus came to the people of Israel and offered them the free gift of eternal life, which some of them accepted.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that heeding Jesus, the Prophet, was not optional.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that everybody who did not heed the Prophet would be utterly destroyed from among the people.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God that Jesus was the Prophet Who arose from among the people and brought salvation.**

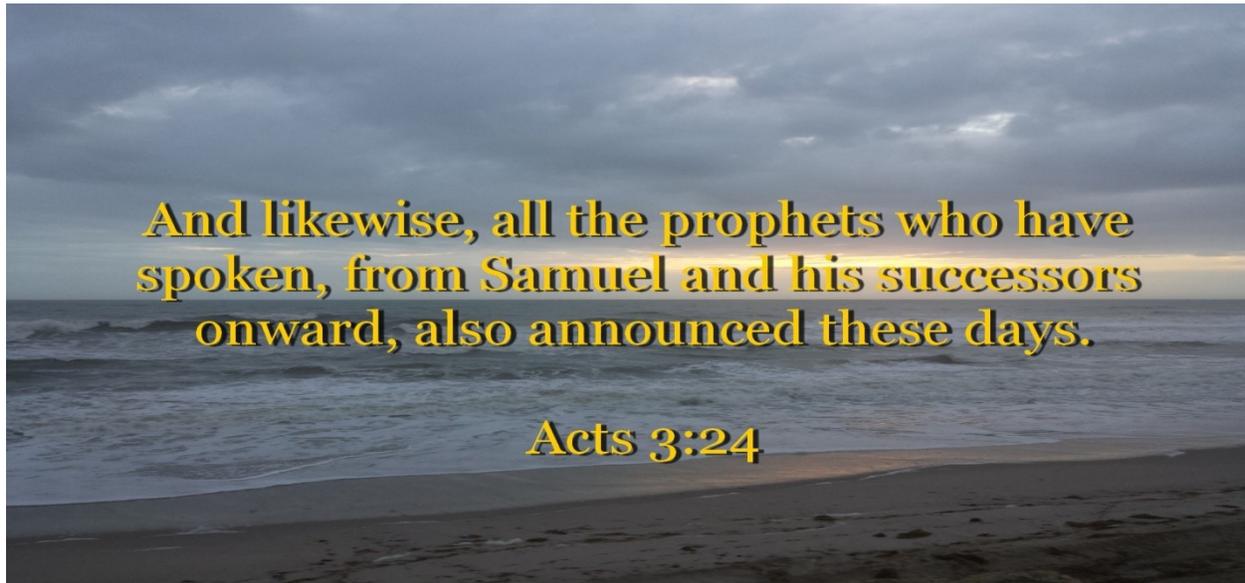
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping the Prophet Who arose from among the people of Israel. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that Jesus was the Prophet spoken of in the Old Testament Who is the Savior of the world?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 97

Spoken Today



What did Samuel say about the future? Samuel announced these days.

God used Samuel to anoint kings. God gave Samuel very specific directions about who to anoint King. Samuel anointed Saul as the first King of Israel, but Samuel also had to go and tell Saul that God had removed the kingdom from Saul for his sinful acts. Samuel anointed young David to be king over Israel.

Samuel was a great prophet of the Old Testament. Peter said that Samuel announced the days of Jesus Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Peter and the crowd were eyewitnesses of the power of Jesus and the power the Holy Spirit at work among them.

Peter continued linking his present preaching to its roots in the Old Testament prophecies. Speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Peter preached to several crowds about Jesus and how He fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies about both the coming Messiah and also the Prophet that would arise from among the people. Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies

pertaining to the birth, life, crucifixion, death, resurrection, appearance, and ascension of Jesus.

Announced

1. **Likewise**. What did Peter say about the other prophets? Just as Moses spoke about the Prophet that would arise later, so also other prophets spoke about the Prophet Who would come.

2. **All**. Peter preached that all the Old Testament prophets from Samuel forward spoke about Jesus.

3. **Prophets**. The prophets of the Old Testament spoke about Jesus, the Messiah of Israel.

4. **Spoken**. Peter limited his reference to the Old Testament prophets to those who had spoken.

5. **Samuel**. Samuel and his successors onward all prophesied about the days being witnessed by Peter and the crowd.

5. **Onward**. Samuel started speaking about the days of Pentecost.

6. **Announced**. Living holy in the family of God means that Samuel announced the days of Pentecost and the birth of the church.

7. **Days**. We rejoice today because from the prophet Samuel and onwards, the prophets spoke about the days of Christ and the birth of the church.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Samuel and his successors spoke about the Messiah and the days of Messiah.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God inspired the Old Testament prophets to speak about the days witnessed by Peter and the crowd.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another to read the Old Testament prophets and learn how they wrote about Jesus and His days.**

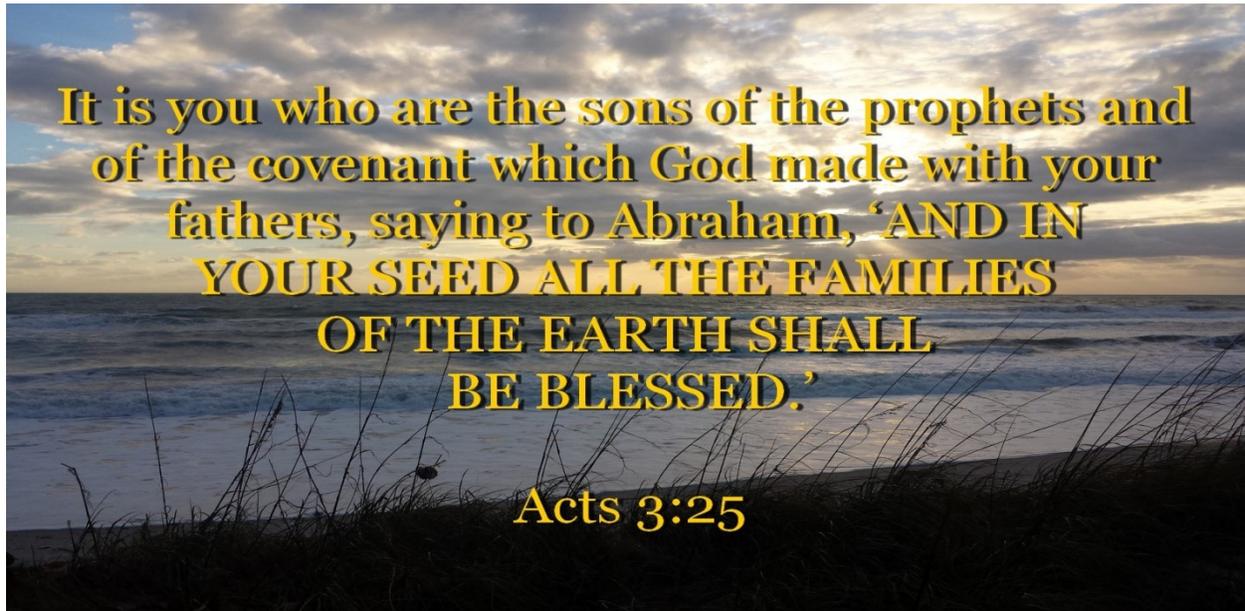
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving Jesus for allowing the prophets to write about Him and His days long before He took flesh and dwelt among men. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking Jesus for fulfilling all the prophecies about Himself and His days?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 98

Covenant Today



Who are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant? Peter said that the crowd before him, the men of Israel, were the sons of the prophets and of the covenant.

Peter spoke about the covenant that God made with Abraham in Genesis. God promised Abraham that in his seed all the families of the earth would be blessed.

The seed of Abraham at issue was Jesus Christ. As a direct descendent of Abraham, Jesus fulfilled the Abrahamic Covenant. God the Father sanctified Jesus and sent Him into the world to save the world. Jesus would be the means of all the families of the earth being blessed with salvation by faith in Him.

The Holy Spirit used Peter and his mouth to show how Christ fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies and fulfilled the covenant promises of God to Abraham. God wanted the people in the crowd to come to Jesus as the Messiah Savior of Israel. God was unwilling for any of them to perish.

Blessed

1. **You**. How did Peter link the crowd before him to the prophecies of the Old Testament and the Abrahamic Covenant? Peter explained that the crowd, the men of Israel, were indeed the children of the prophets and the children of the covenant with Abraham.

2. **Sons**. The men of Israel were sons of the prophets and of the covenant with Abraham.

3. **Prophets**. The prophets of the Old Testament had spoken, looking forward to Christ.

4. **Covenant**. God made a covenant with Abraham and described giving him land and that he would be a father of many nations and also through his seed all the families of the earth would be blessed.

5. **God**. God had great plans for Abraham and his descendants and all the families of the earth.

6. **Abraham**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Abraham was the chosen vessel of God to bring forth his seed in which all the families of the earth would be blessed.

7. **Blessed**. We rejoice today because Jesus has blessed many families across the earth and the Gospel of Jesus Christ will bring blessings in Christ to all the families of the earth.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering both the prophets and the covenants of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that we are part of the families blessed through Jesus, the seed of Abraham.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His loving plans spanning centuries in all the families of the earth.**

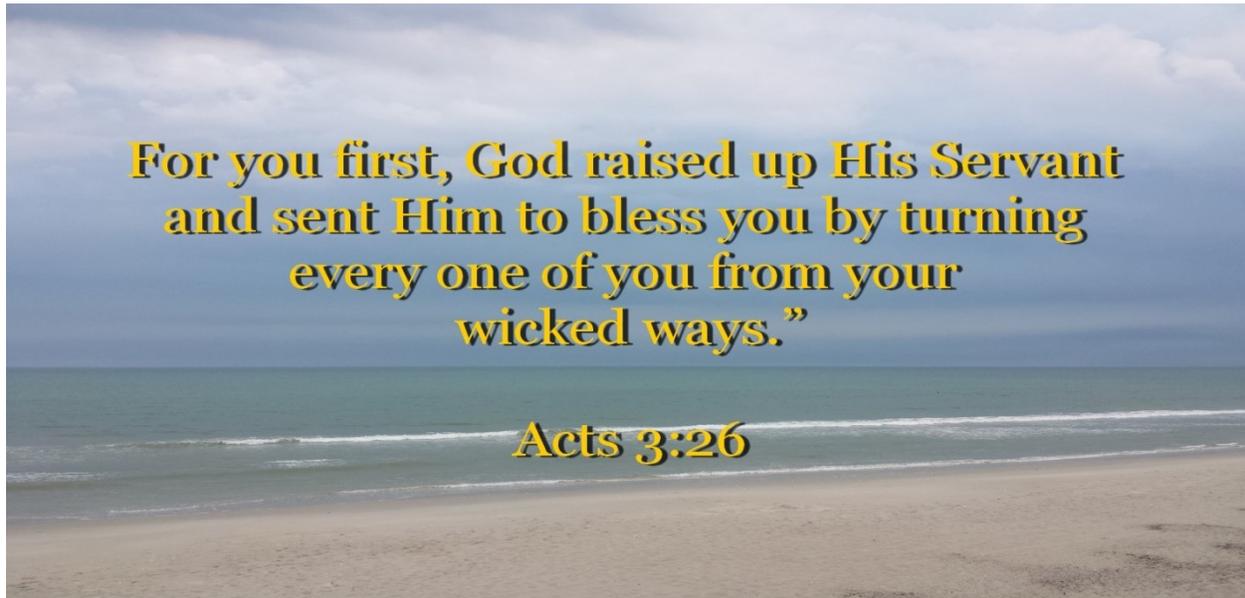
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for sending His blessing through Jesus to us who have the faith of Abraham. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the prophets and the covenants describing the blessings Jesus has brought into our lives?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 99

Raised Up Today



According to Peter, who were the first people to be blessed by the raising of Jesus as God's servant? Peter said the men of Israel standing before him were the first people to be blessed.

Peter looked at the crowd and said for you first God raised up Jesus. Jesus was Jewish, with Jewish parents having a royal lineage. Jesus came through the line of David. God sent Jesus into the world to seek and to save the lost.

To fulfill the prophecies about the coming servant of Yahweh, God sent Jesus to the Jews first and also to the Gentiles later. Just as the Abrahamic Covenant described, God blessed Abraham and his descendants first in the seed of Abraham became a blessing to all the families of the earth.

Peter applied the Scriptures with the full authority of God to confront the crowd before him. Peter showed that the crowd were indeed the children of Abraham by the flesh, but they must have the faith of Abraham to be saved by Messiah, Jesus Christ. Peter indicated that God raised up Christ for the purpose of turning the men of Israel away from their wicked ways. Peter

again confronted the crowd with their own sin and urged them to turn to Christ for salvation.

Wicked Ways

1. **First**. For whom was Christ raised up? Peter said that for the Jews first, God raised up Jesus, the descendant of Abraham and David.

2. **God**. God raised up Jesus in fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant and the words of the prophets.

3. **Raised**. God raised up Jesus by sanctifying Him and sending Him into the world to be born of the virgin, Mary.

4. **Servant**. Jesus functioned as the servant of God because Jesus did not think equality with God was a thing to be grasped.

5. **Bless**. God sent Jesus to bless the men of Israel with repentance leading to salvation.

6. **Turning**. Living holy in the family of God means that God blesses people by turning their hearts away from their evil ways.

7. **Wicked**. We rejoice today because God blessed us by turning us from our wicked ways into the love of Jesus as our Savior by faith.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus for the blessings He brings into our lives.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding the great blessing of Jesus in turning us from our wicked ways to Himself for salvation by grace through faith.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by joining together to worship God for blessing us with salvation through Jesus Christ after turning us from our wicked ways.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that salvation comes from God as a blessing which turned us from our evil ways. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the great blessing God poured out upon your life in Jesus?

HALLELUJAH !

10

Peter and John Arrested Today

As Peter and John were speaking to the crowd, the priests and the captain of the Temple and the Sadducees came up to them. They were greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. They laid hands on them and put them in jail until the next day. Many of the people, however, heard the message and believed. The number of them was about 5000.

On the next day, the rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, all of high priestly descent, were all present. They placed Peter and John in the center of the Council began to inquire of them. They wanted to know by what power, or in what name, they had performed this great miracle of healing the Beautiful Beggar.

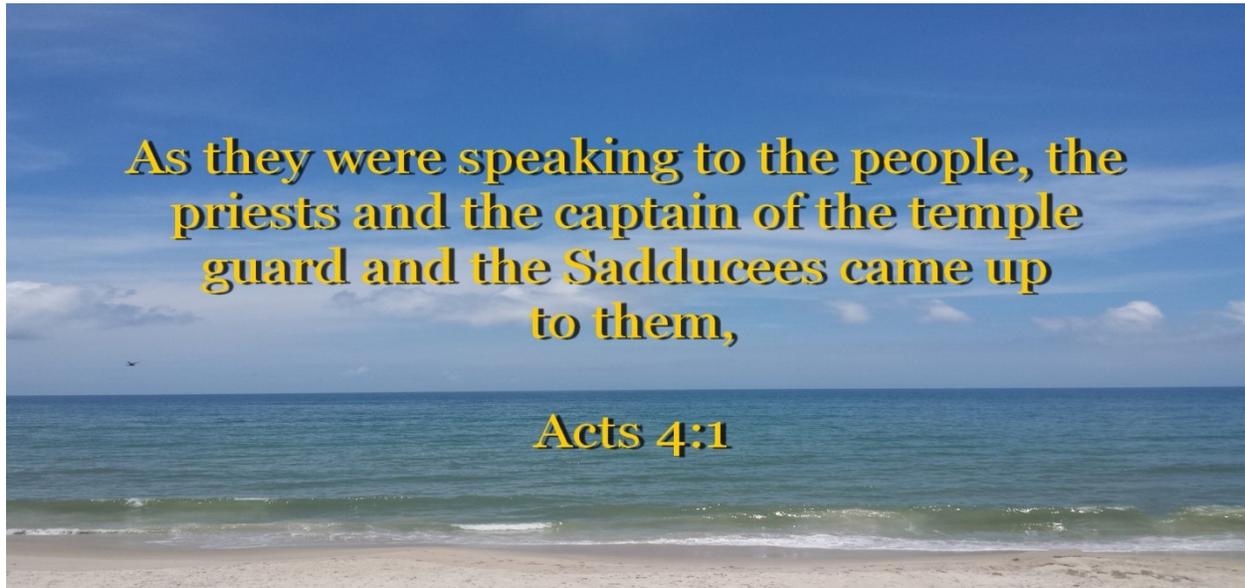
Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, told them that both they and all of Israel should know that by the Name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene--Whom they had crucified and Whom God raised from the dead--the Beautiful Beggar stood before them. Peter also applied the prophecy that the Stone which the builders rejected has become the Chief Cornerstone. Only in Jesus

was their salvation because there is no other Name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 100

Speaking Today



What happened while Peter and John were speaking to the crowd? The priests and the captain of the Temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them.

Jesus always faced opposition from the religious leaders. Eventually the religious leader stirred up the crowd to cry out for the crucifixion of Jesus. Pilate had already determined to let Jesus go, but the crowd demanded that Barabbas, a murderer, be released to them instead.

The priests were the lineal descendants of Aaron and performed service in the Temple and elsewhere. The high priests, Annas and Caiaphas, held religious trials for Jesus and wanted to kill Him, but required Roman authority to put anyone to death. Therefore, they delivered Jesus to Pilate for trial and crucifixion.

The Jews had their own Temple guard. The captain of that guard came out to confront Peter and John about their teaching and work in the Name of Jesus.

The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection or in angels or any afterlife at all. The Sadducees often had disputes with the Pharisees about many theological matters.

Sadducees

1. **Speaking**. Who opposed Peter and John speaking to the crowd? The religious leaders who had persuaded Pilate, with threats, to crucify Jesus likewise opposed all those who talked in the Name of Jesus.

2. **People**. Peter and John were speaking to a large crowd of people who had witnessed the miracle of the Beautiful Beggar.

3. **Priests**. The priests came to protect their interest in working in the Temple under Roman occupation.

4. **Captain**. The captain of the Temple guard came to lend military support.

5. **Sadducees**. The Sadducees opposed any teaching about Jesus being resurrected and sought to silence such talk.

6. **Came**. Living holy in the family of God means that we can always expect many religious leaders to oppose the truth of God.

7. **Them**. We rejoice today because Peter and John and many others after them preached Jesus and His resurrection to crowds all over the world.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that religious groups will often oppose the truth of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by not counting upon the support of religious groups as we try to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by uniting against all opposition opposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His work across the world.**

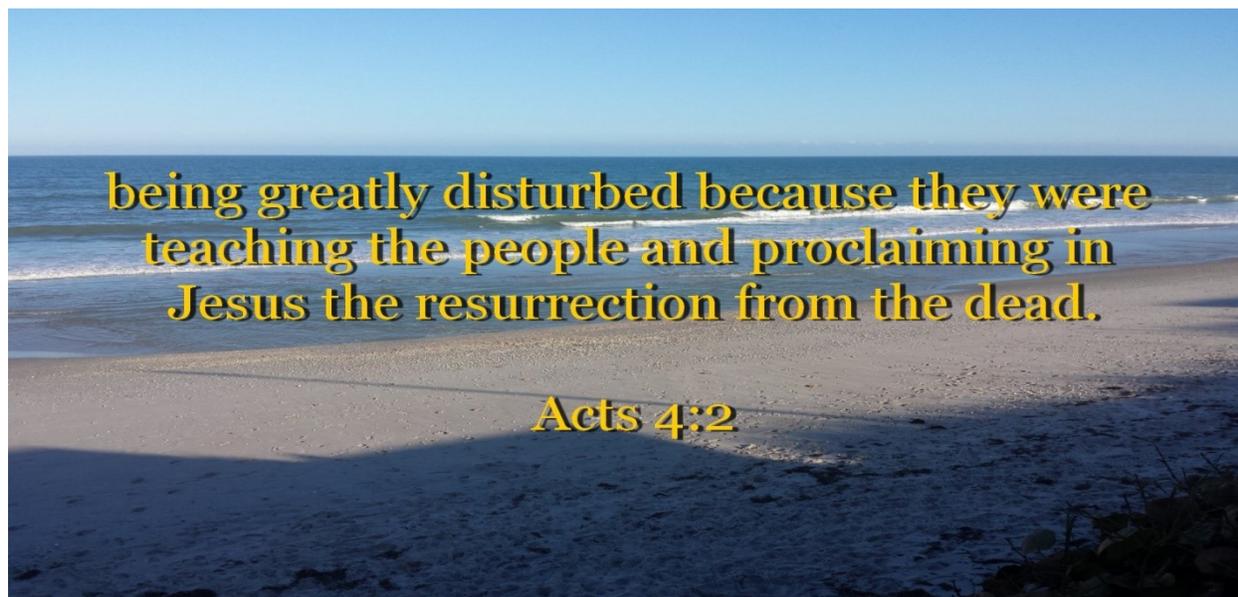
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by relying upon God's power to overcome all enemies opposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by not giving up when religious officials oppose the work of Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 101

Disturbed Today



Why were the religious officials disturbed by Peter and John? They were disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

The religious leaders took counsel together with Judas Iscariot to seize and crucify Jesus Christ. They first brought Him before their religious courts and then turned Him over to Pilate for crucifixion. Pilate questioned Jesus several times and determined that He had done nothing worthy of death and sought to release Jesus. The religious leaders incited the crowd to cry out for His crucifixion.

The religious leaders thought their problems were over when Jesus died on the cross. They anticipated that His followers might claim a resurrection of Jesus and so stationed guards around the tomb. Jesus was resurrected and the religious leaders had to pay off the guards to keep silent.

Over the next 40 days after His crucifixion, Jesus appeared to many people. Jesus even appeared to more than 500 people at one time. The apostles saw Jesus more than once after His resurrection. They watched Him

ascend to heaven. Then the apostles proclaimed Jesus with the power of the Holy Spirit. God performed signs and wonders by the hands of the apostles.

Resurrection

1. **Disturbed**. Why did the religious leaders take note of Peter and John? They took note of Peter and John because the religious leaders were greatly disturbed over the preaching of Peter and John.

2. **Because**. The religious leaders held Peter and John responsible for talking about Jesus as if He were still alive.

3. **Teaching**. Peter and John were also teaching the people from the Old Testament about Jesus and His suffering, death, and resurrection.

4. **Proclaiming**. Peter and John were proclaiming boldly the resurrected Christ.

5. **Jesus**. Jesus the Nazarene was not dead, but alive and actively working through Peter and John.

6. **Resurrection**. Living holy in the family of God means that we love Peter and John for proclaiming resurrection in Jesus.

7. **Dead**. We rejoice today because Jesus was resurrected from the dead and lives as Savior of the world today.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by anticipating religious opposition will arise for proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by learning from Peter and John about boldness and integrity in proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ and His resurrection.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for sending men like Peter and John to proclaim resurrection and eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by proclaiming resurrection from the dead in Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming Jesus as the Living Savior?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 102

Jail Today



What did the religious leaders do to stop Peter and John from proclaiming resurrection from the dead in Christ? They laid hands on Peter and John and threw them in jail.

The religious leaders, remembering the crucifixion of Jesus just a month or so earlier, were not happy to hear that the Name of Jesus Christ was being proclaimed. Peter said they acted in ignorance in disowning and crucifying Christ, Jesus the Nazarene. While they certainly acted in ignorance before Pentecost, Peter and John were about to tell them the truth about Jesus Christ and His resurrection and ascension.

Peter and John had seen Christ resurrected and ascended. They also were empowered by the Holy Spirit Who came upon them at Pentecost. Jesus had commissioned them to be His witnesses. By the power of the Holy Spirit they were fulfilling that command.

The religious leaders did not understand that God was expanding Christianity more rapidly than ever. The church had been born at Pentecost and the message was being proclaimed in Jerusalem, then Judea, then

Samaria, and to the remotest parts of the world. Nothing on earth could stop the progression of the Gospel proclaimed by Jesus Christ and His apostles.

Evening

1. **Hands**. Why did the religious leaders put their hands on Peter and John? Because they wanted to silence them so that they would not proclaim the resurrection of Jesus to more Jews.

2. **Them**. The religious leaders targeted Peter and John because they were making public proclamation.

3. **Put**. Just as they had seized Jesus previously, so now again the religious leaders seized the apostles of Jesus, Peter and John.

4. **Jail**. Without any legitimate basis for seizing them or incarcerating them, the religious leaders put them in jail.

5. **Day**. The religious leaders held Peter and John in jail because it was late in the day and they wanted to examine them before the Council the next day.

6. **Already**. Living holy in the family of God means that Peter and John proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ daily in Jerusalem and it was already late in the day.

7. **Evening**. We rejoice today because Peter and John were proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ until the evening, telling of the great things that God had been doing for the Beautiful Beggar because Jesus was alive and resurrected from the dead.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by proclaiming Jesus at all times during the day.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by declaring that in Jesus the dead are raised to eternal life.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that some saints will be put in jail by religious authorities solely because they proclaimed Jesus and His resurrection to crowds.**

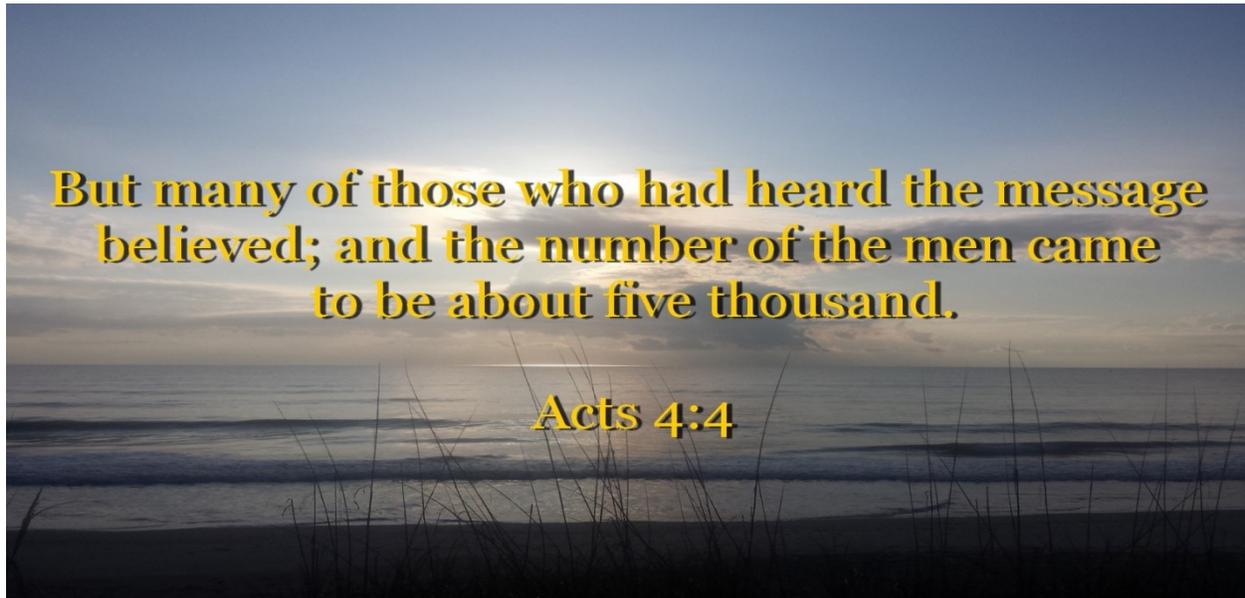
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding that we may be put in jail by religious authorities for proclaiming Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by looking to Jesus for strength to proclaim His resurrection even when religious authorities oppose us?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 103

Believed Today



Did the preaching of the apostles change anything? Yes because about three thousand people believed one day and then five thousand people believed on another day.

The religious authorities opposed the preaching of Peter and the other apostles. The Gospel of Jesus Christ was gaining traction in Jerusalem. By the grace of God more than eight thousand people heard the message and believed in Jesus for salvation.

More than a month previously the religious leaders had formed the plot to murder Jesus through the hands of the Roman government. Pursuant to their plan, the Roman governor Pilate delivered Jesus for crucifixion. Jesus died on the cross, but then rose from the grave. Death could not hold the Prince of Life.

The religious leaders thought they had achieved their final purpose with the death of Christ. They were mistaken because Jesus rose from the dead, met with His disciples, and they continued His ministry in the power

of the Holy Spirit. God perform signs and wonders through the apostles and many people came to believe in Jesus, the risen Savior.

Five Thousand

1. **Many**. Many people heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed by Peter and the other apostles.

2. **Heard**. The crowd heard Peter's message and witnessed the healing of the Beautiful Beggar.

3. **Message**. The message of Peter was like the Old Testament prophecies about Messiah with a life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

4. **Believed**. Having heard the message and seeing the miracles, many people in the crowd believed in Jesus Christ for eternal life.

5. **Men**. The men of Israel heard the message about Jesus, the descendent of David.

6. **About**. Living holy in the family of God means that about five thousand men, not including women and children, believed in Jesus for salvation.

7. **Five Thousand**. We rejoice today because five thousand souls were added to the church in one day as they witnessed the healing of the Beautiful Beggar.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that five thousand souls were added to the church in one day.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that as opposition to the Gospel of Jesus Christ rises, God uses such persecutions to spread eternal life by that Gospel to many people.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that He drew us one by one to faith in Jesus as Savior, although many people from all over the world may have been saved that same day.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that five thousand souls were added to the church in one day. Will you live holy in the family of God today by sharing your faith so that more souls may be added to the church?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 104

Rulers Today



Why did the Jewish rulers, elders and scribes gather together in Jerusalem? They gathered together to decide what to do with the apostles teaching the resurrection of Christ.

The miracle of the healing of the Beautiful Beggar caught the attention of the crowd. Peter preached a powerful sermon based upon Old Testament prophecies in New Testament actions. five thousand men from the crowd were saved in one day. A broad calling to salvation drew many people to salvation in Jesus Christ as the risen Savior.

The religious authorities opposed Jesus and then denied His resurrection. They sought to silence His apostles proclaiming salvation in His Name. They had previous experience in trying to silence Jesus, and eventually persuaded Pilate to crucify Jesus. Now they sought to deal with the twelve apostles and the works of powers they were showing to the people with great results. Jesus was alive and working through the hands of the twelve apostles.

Just as they arrested Jesus, so also the religious authorities arrested Peter and John. They held them overnight in jail to face the religious authorities the next day.

Gathered

1. **Day**. What did the religious authorities do on the day after they arrested Peter and John? They were gathered together in Jerusalem for proceedings against Peter and John.

2. **Rulers**. The Jewish rulers included the parties of the Sadducees and the Pharisees. Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews when he came to Jesus by night.

3. **Elders**. The Jewish elders were also influential in making local decisions and frequently sat in the city gate.

4. **Scribes**. The Jewish scribes copied and taught the Old Testament Law and studied it often.

5. **Gathered**. At the command of Jesus, the apostles remained together in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them. The religious leaders gathered in Jerusalem to oppose the apostles and their teaching about Jesus as the Christ and His resurrection.

6. **Together**. Living holy in the family of God means that saints know the prophecy of Jesus concerning His disciples was fulfilled and will be fulfilled: They hated Me without cause and they will hate you too. The apostles hung together, just as the religious authorities gathered together to oppose them.

7. **Jerusalem**. We rejoice today because Jerusalem has always been a battleground between unbelieving Jews and Jews doing the will of God. One day, Jesus will cleanse Jerusalem and destroy His enemies before sitting on the throne of David in Jerusalem.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding religious authorities will gather together to oppose believers.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting God to push His plans forward despite religious opposition.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the power to proclaim His Name, notwithstanding religious authorities opposing His work.**

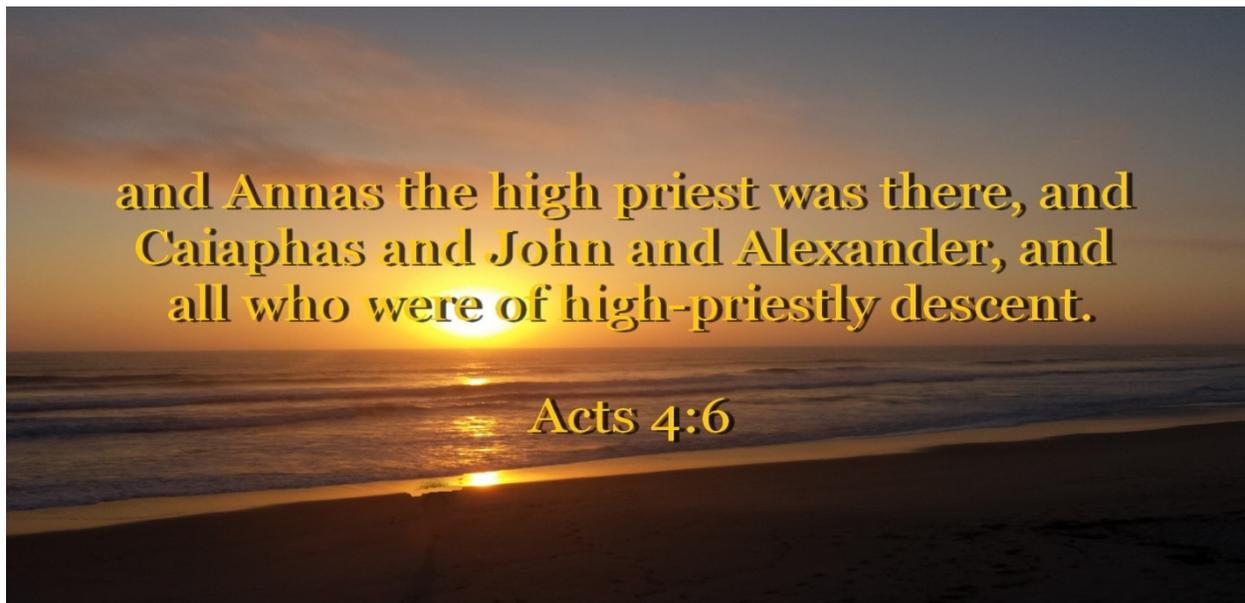
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by standing together against religious authorities opposing Christ and His resurrection. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to help you stand against the opposition of religious leaders?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 105

Annas Today



Why did the family of the high priest together with the religious authorities? The office of high priest passed down from Aaron in the Old Testament through the descendants of Aaron. The history of the Old Testament reveals that God cut off certain branches of Aaron's family from serving as priests.

By the time of the New Testament, with Roman occupation of Israel, the high priest was very concerned about his political position with the Romans. Annas was the father-in-law of Caiaphas. Caiaphas was High Priest during the year that Jesus was crucified. Caiaphas prophesied that it was expedient for one Man to die on behalf of the people, referring to the crucifixion of Jesus. Caiaphas was very concerned that Jesus would cause the Romans to come and take away the place of the religious authorities and they would lose the nation of Israel. Therefore, they decided to silence Jesus fearing the loss of their power and the loss of their nation. They were sadly mistaken on both counts. Jesus was the only hope for their salvation and the salvation of the nation of Israel. The religious leaders were supposed to be acting for God, but actually opposed God in the flesh. Even so, the plans of

God move forward, just as the plans of the religious authorities crumbled before them.

Descent

1. **Annas**. Annas was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest during the year that Jesus was crucified.

2. **High Priest**. God established the office of high priest in the Old Testament. Aaron first filled that office and his descendants would fill that office.

3. **Caiaphas**. By New Testament times, the office of high priest had become a political office too, subject to Roman control.

4. **John**. John was of high priestly descent.

5. **Alexander**. Likewise, Alexander was of high priestly descent.

6. **All**. Living holy in the family of God means that we understand that God used families to hold offices He created to serve His people. Not all the people who held those offices, however, sought to serve God.

7. **Descent**. We rejoice today because we understand that physical descent did not guarantee that Caiaphas, John, and Alexander would do the will of God. Our joy lies in spiritual descent from God by faith in Jesus Christ so that we became born of God by the Son of God and now live as the family of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that physical descent does not guarantee spiritual descent from God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that some people equate physical descent with the right to hold offices in the church, but they are sadly mistaken because spiritual descent from God makes all the difference.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering religious authorities opposed to Jesus and the apostles, and so they will oppose the work of God today.**

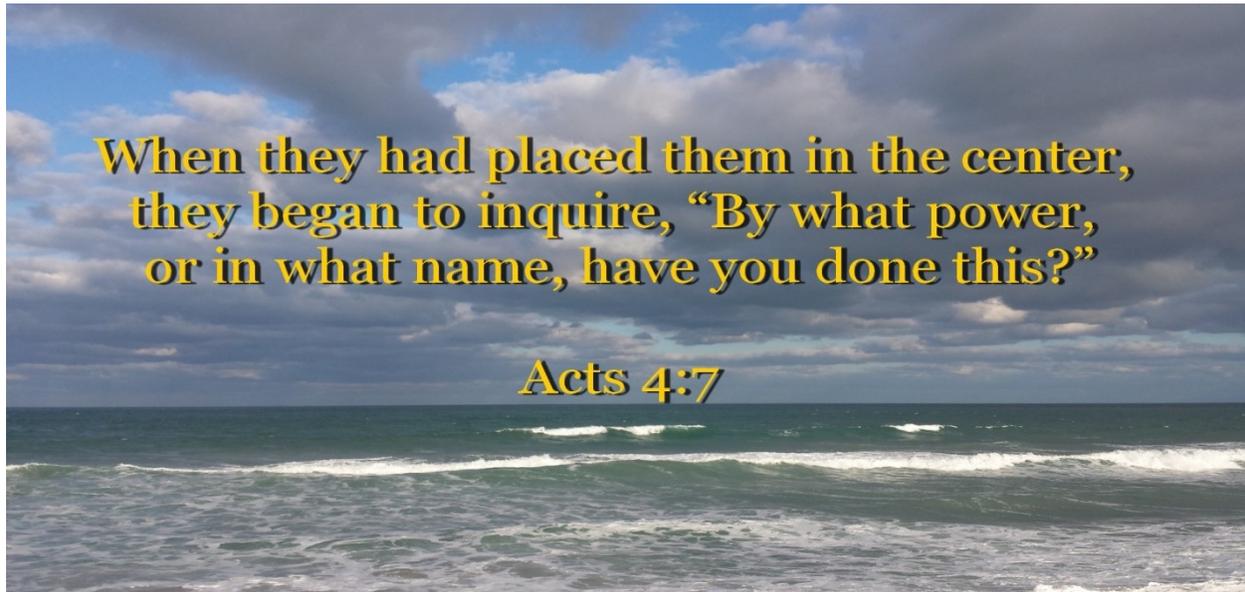
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that the power of religious authorities will never triumph ultimately over the plans of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to overcome the evil power of religious authorities opposed to the work of God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 106

Inquire Today



What happened to Peter and John after they were arrested? They were placed in front of the rulers, elders and scribes for questioning.

The religious authorities asked Peter and John about the healing of the Beautiful Beggar. They wanted to know by what power or in what name Peter and John had healed the man.

Peter and John had proclaimed the Name of Jesus Christ and gave all credit to Him for the healing of the Beautiful Beggar. Five thousand men believed in Jesus for salvation as a result of that miracle in the preaching of Peter. The religious authorities saw three thousand saved and then five thousand saved and were very concerned about the preaching of the apostles and the miracles they were performing.

Religious authorities often oppose the work of God. Just as religious authorities opposed Jesus and ultimately had Him crucified, so also they would oppose the apostles and the work they did in the Name of Jesus Christ.

The apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and testified in His power. The Holy Spirit was giving them the words to speak as they stood before the Council.

Power

1. **Center**. Who inquired of Peter and John? The religious authorities placed Peter and John in the center of them and began their questions.

2. **Inquire**. Having spent the night in jail under arrest by the religious authorities, Peter and John now faced questioning as the religious authorities sought to inquire about the miraculous healing of the Beautiful Beggar.

3. **Power**. The religious leaders wanted to know by what power Peter and John healed the Beautiful Beggar.

4. **Name**. The religious leaders also wanted to know by what name Peter and John were acting.

5. **You**. The religious authorities attributed the healing to Peter and John when they said “you have done this.”

6. **Done**. Living holy in the family of God means that we know that God had done the miracle of healing the Beautiful Beggar through His slaves, Peter and John.

7. **This**. We rejoice today because this great miracle of healing the Beautiful Beggar gained much attention with the religious authorities and with the people of Jerusalem.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the religious authorities arrested and questioned Peter and John.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by expecting that religious authorities will interrogate people who proclaim the Name of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by supporting one another as religious authorities seek to silence all testimony about Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.**

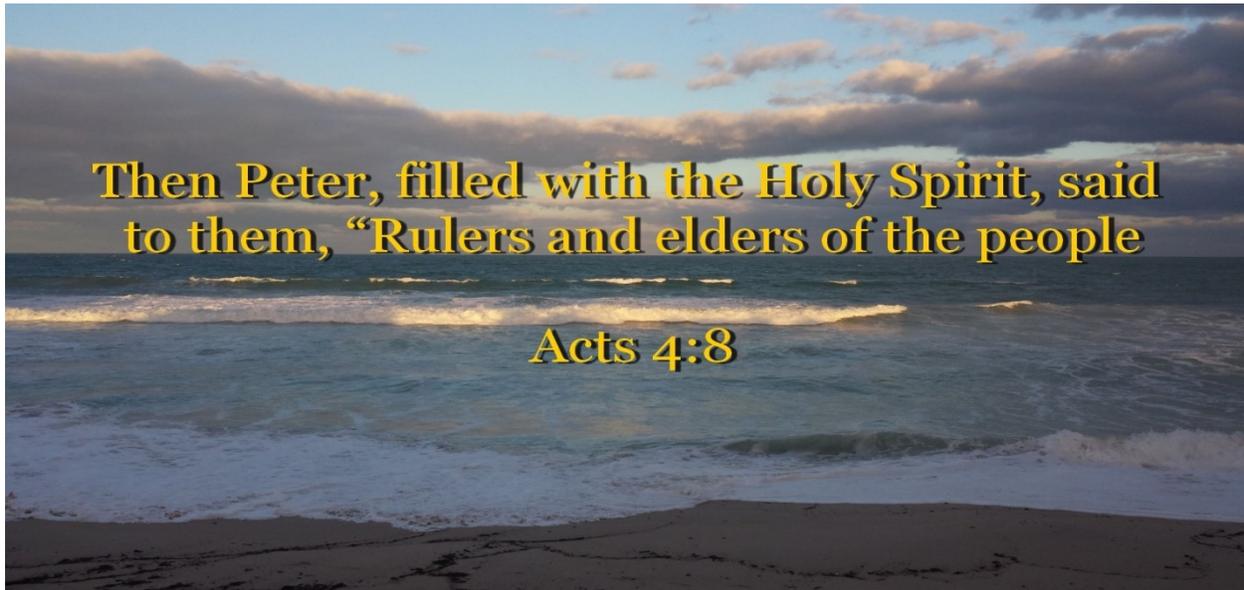
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by standing strong when religious authorities seek to silence our voices for Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by supporting one another as we face persecution from religious authorities and governments opposed to the Name of Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 107

Filled Today



Why did the Holy Spirit fill Peter? The Holy Spirit filled Peter so that he could talk to the religious authorities who had arrested him and were now questioning him.

Jesus had promised His disciples earlier that the Holy Spirit would give them the words to say at just the right time and they should not worry about what to say in their defense. Jesus also promised the apostles that the Holy Spirit would come upon them and that they would be His witnesses.

The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles at Pentecost. With the sound of a mighty rushing wind and tongues as of fire, the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles as Jesus had promised. At that moment, Jesus baptized them with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit was essential to the witnessing ministry of the apostles. He empowered them to speak in foreign tongues and about three thousand souls were saved in one day. The Holy Spirit also gave words to Peter to convict the crowds of their sins and their need of a Savior.

Peter addressed the rulers and elders of the people. He fulfilled the prophecy of Jesus that he would speak with the power of the Holy Spirit as a witness of the resurrection of Christ.

Rulers and Elders

1. **Peter**. Who gave Peter the words to speak? The Holy Spirit filled Peter and he spoke the words from the Holy Spirit.
2. **Filled**. At Pentecost, Jesus baptized the apostles with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit fills believers so that He controls them.
3. **Holy Spirit**. God exists as one God in three eternal Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
4. **Said**. Peter spoke under the influence of the Holy Spirit.
5. **Rulers**. He addressed the rulers of the Jews.
6. **Elders**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Jewish elders sat in judgment upon Peter and John, just as they sat in judgment upon Jesus.
7. **People**. We rejoice today because the rulers and the elders of the people of Israel arrested Peter and John, but God used their arrest to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the religious rulers and elders.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by speaking to rulers and elders who question us about Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by counting upon the Holy Spirit to give us the words to say at the proper time.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by being filled with the Holy Spirit so that we may do His will and say His words.**

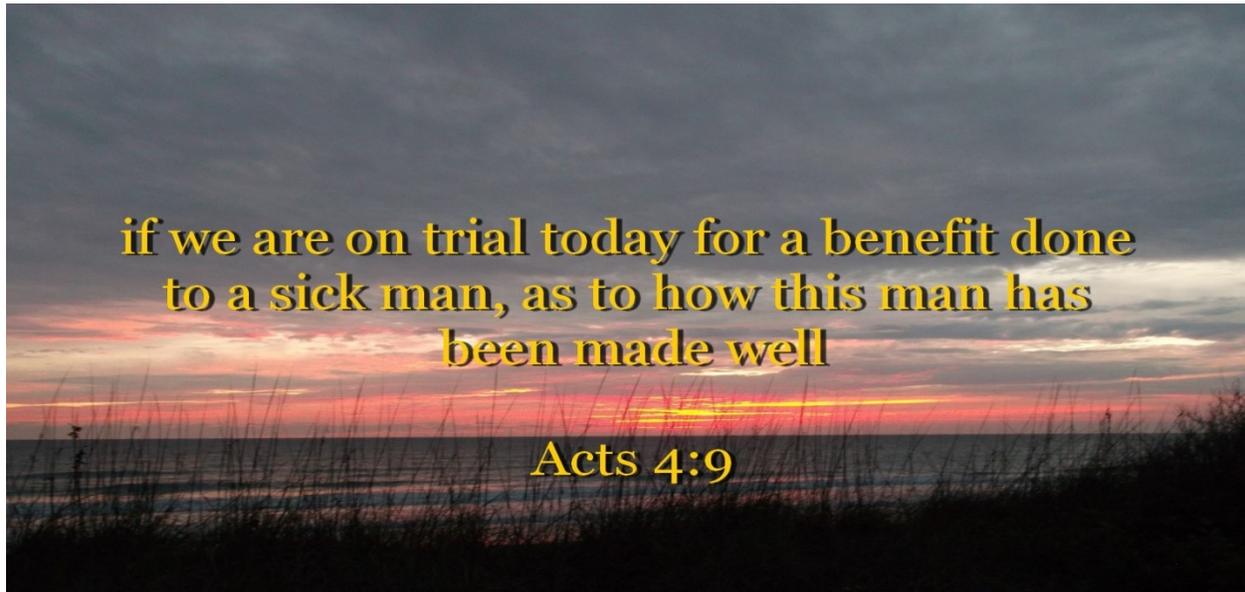
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting the Holy Spirit to help us spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people, including religious rulers and authorities. Will you live holy in the family of God today by relying upon the Holy Spirit to help you proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people in authority?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 108

Trial Today



How did Peter begin to answer their questions? Peter began his answer by explaining the benefit to a sick man.

Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit. He spoke with the authority of God and there is no counsel and no wisdom against God. In fact, by the wisdom of this world, the world never came to know Christ.

The religious authorities knew that a tremendous miracle had taken place and many people came to faith in Jesus because of that miracle. Peter went directly to the heart of the issue before the tribunal. The miracle of healing the Beautiful Beggar caught the attention of the religious authorities. Furthermore, the religious authorities sought to squelch all preaching about Jesus being alive.

Peter capitalized upon the brute facts. The Beautiful Beggar had begged alms at the Beautiful gate because he was lame from birth. Yet, the unmistakable fact was that the Beautiful Beggar was now walking, leaping and praising God, while clinging to Peter and John. The religious leaders could not undo that great miracle, but they could attack Peter and John

through whom the miracle occurred. Religious leaders often oppose Christ and His work and do so by persecuting people who spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Made Well

1. **If**. Why did Peter use the word “if”? Peter used the word “if” because the religious authorities had not stated the charges against Peter and John.

2. **Trial**. Peter and John had been summoned for trial before the religious authorities.

3. **Benefit**. Peter and John capitalized upon the benefit given to the Beautiful Beggar.

4. **Sick**. The Beautiful Beggar had been sick and unable to walk, but Jesus had made him well and everyone knew it.

5. **How**. Peter skillfully framed the issues around how that man was made well.

6. **Man**. Living holy in the family of God means that religious authorities often react negatively to any man who proclaims that Jesus Christ made him well.

7. **Well**. We rejoice today because Jesus still makes people well every day and also brings spiritual healing to them through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by trusting the Holy Spirit to help us defend the faith and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ at the same time.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by contending earnestly for the faith that was once delivered to all the saints.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another to rely upon the Holy Spirit providing just the right words at just the right time to answer those who inquire about the power at work within us.**

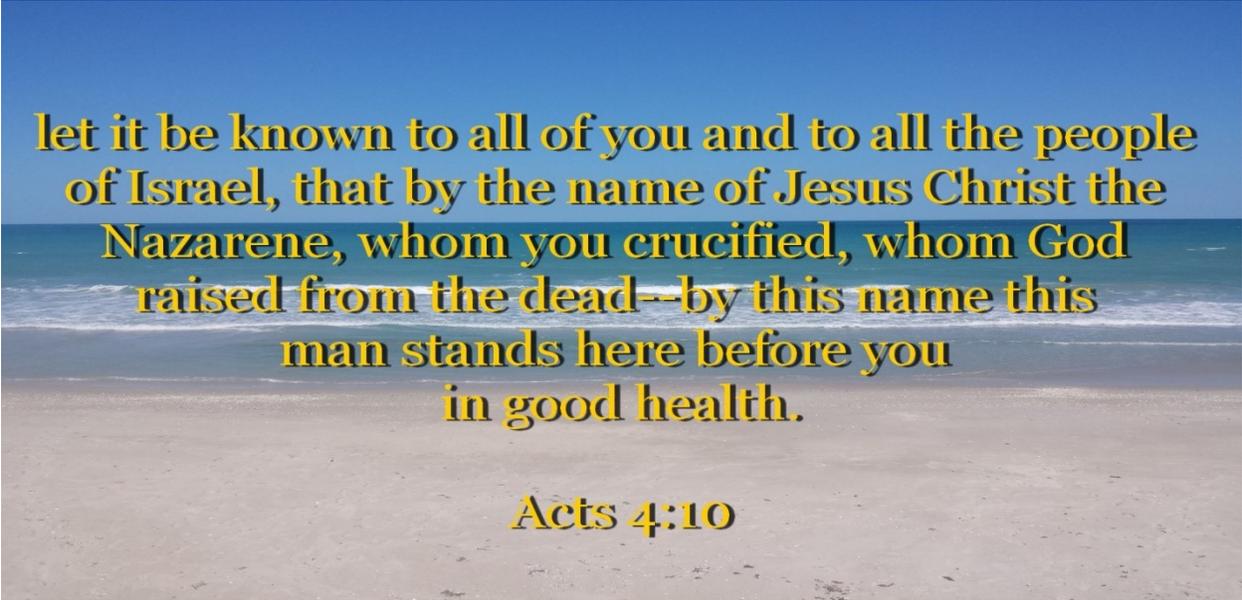
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping the Holy Spirit for filling us with His power and wisdom. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising the Holy Spirit for the spiritual power and wisdom He gives to us in our hour of need?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 109

Raised Today



let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead--by this name this man stands here before you in good health.

Acts 4:10

What did Peter want all the men of Israel to know? Peter wanted all the people of Israel to know that by the Name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene the Beautiful Beggar stood before them in good health.

The religious authorities put Peter and John on trial, but they got far more than they expected. Peter spoke with the authority of God and with the power of the Holy Spirit. The Beautiful Beggar stood before the Council, along with Peter and John the accused, and no one could deny the miracle that had taken place. The evidence was incontrovertible.

The religious authorities thought that by arresting Peter and John they could stop the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The religious authorities were totally mistaken. Peter said the religious authorities had acted in ignorance and crucified Jesus. Now Peter had presented more than clear and convincing evidence that Jesus was alive and active in healing the Beautiful Beggar. Furthermore, Peter's defense sounded with the power of the Holy Spirit as to form and content.

While Peter spoke to the religious authorities who had arrested them, Peter's message went out to all the people of Israel. Peter wanted all the people of Israel to know that by the Name of Jesus Christ, Whom they crucified, Whom God raised from the dead, the Beautiful Beggar stood before them in good health.

Good Health

1. **Known**. What audience was Peter speaking to? Peter wanted his message about Jesus to be known to not only the religious authorities, but to all the people of Israel
2. **All**. Peter focused his message upon all Israel.
3. **You**. Peter spoke directly to the religious authorities, saying you crucified Jesus the Nazarene.
4. **Israel**. Peter also spoke to all the people of Israel and blamed particularly the religious leaders for the crucifixion of Jesus.
5. **Name**. Peter built upon the Old Testament concept of the Name of God. The Name describes the authority of the one doing the actual work. Therefore, Peter indicated that he worked in the Name of Jesus Christ, by Whose authority and power the Beautiful Beggar stood before them healed.
6. **Jesus**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Name of Jesus will always carry great power and authority.
7. **Good**. We rejoice today because the Beautiful Beggar stood as a convincing witness at the trial of Peter and John who testified elegantly to the power and love of Jesus Christ in healing him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking Jesus that His Name is above every name in heaven and on earth.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that religious authorities often oppose the Name of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving Jesus for drawing us to Himself as sheep who hear His voice and recognize His Name as our Great Shepherd and Savior.**

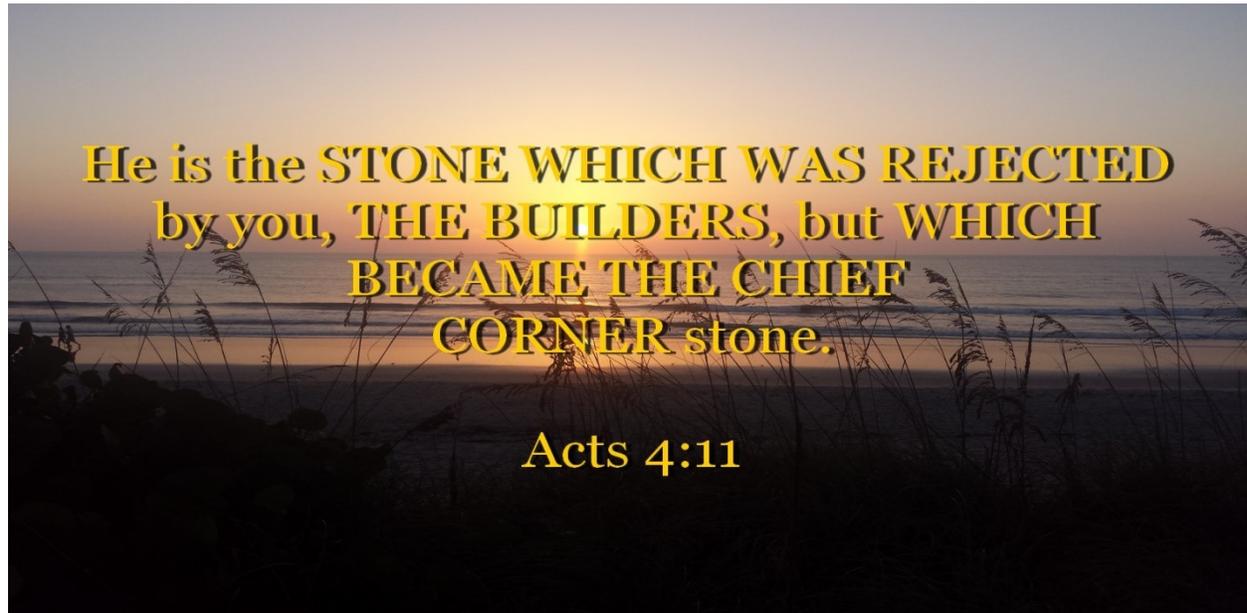
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving Jesus more for healing us with His wounds and His blood. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping Jesus for working among us every day?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 110

Rejected Today



According to Peter, who were the builders? The religious authorities were the builders.

God commissioned the religious authorities to build for Him. Instead, the religious authorities rejected Jesus, Who became the Chief Cornerstone. Peter quoted the Old Testament which provided that the builders would reject the Chief Cornerstone.

Peter used the authority of the Old Testament to prove that Jesus was God in the flesh. Peter also used the Old Testament to indict the religious leaders as the very builders who rejected Jesus.

Peter testified against the religious authorities because they were ignorant and evil. They not only crucified Christ, but they also sought to silence anyone who testified that God raised Jesus from the dead.

Peter indicated that after the builders rejected Jesus, God made Jesus the Chief Cornerstone. As the Chief Cornerstone, Jesus was the Head of the church, which constituted His body. Jesus healed the Beautiful Beggar and

added him to the church. The religious leaders watched Jesus build His church through faith in Him as Savior. By rejecting Jesus, the religious leaders were rejecting God and the salvation that He provides only through Jesus, the Chief Cornerstone.

Chief

1. **Stone**. Who did the builders reject? The builders rejected the Chief Cornerstone.

2. **Rejected**. Jesus came to His own, but His own rejected Him.

3. **You**. Peter told the religious leaders face-to-face that “you” were responsible for the crucifixion of the Messiah and the rejection of the Chief Cornerstone.

4. **Builders**. The religious authorities should have been builders for God, but instead they were people who rejected the Chief Cornerstone.

5. **Became**. After the builders rejected Jesus, He became the Chief Cornerstone of the church, a living Temple of God.

6. **Chief**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus was the Chief Cornerstone, the prime block used to set all the dimensions and locations of all stones to follow.

7. **Corner**. We rejoice today because Jesus became the Chief Cornerstone that God used to build the church in all its glory, with Christ as the Head of the church.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the builders rejected the Chief Cornerstone.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that He made Jesus the Chief Cornerstone of the church.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that the religious leaders rejected Jesus, but we became the living Temple of the Living God.**

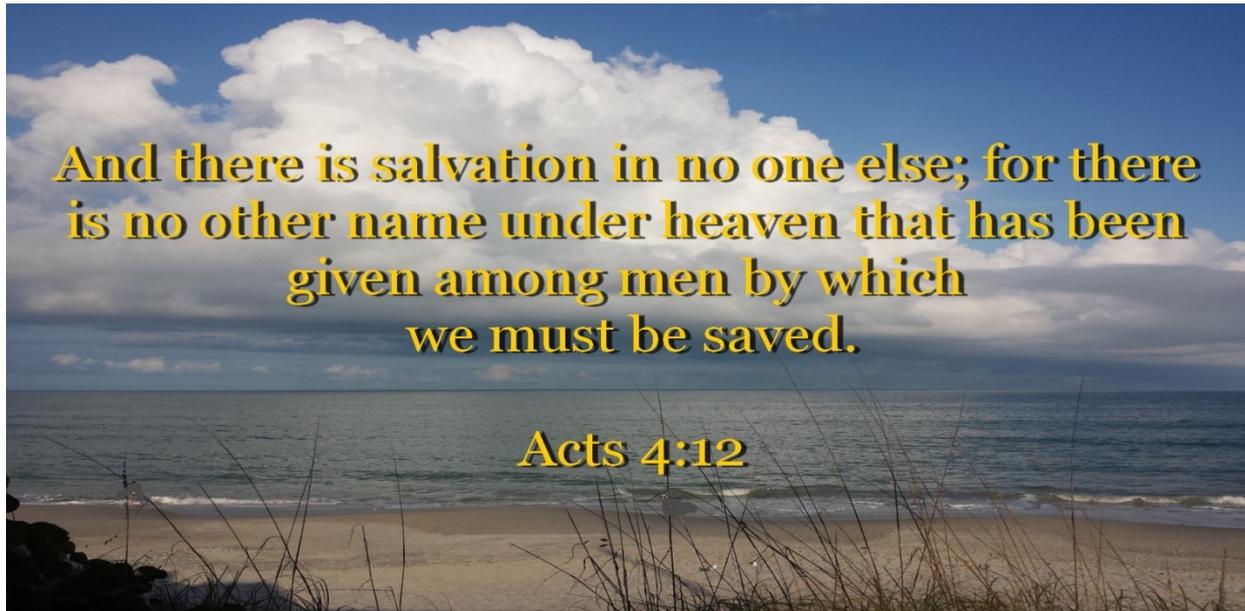
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for building us into the Temple of God, founded upon Jesus, the Chief Cornerstone. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for His wonderful plans to build upon Jesus, Whom the builders rejected?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 111

Salvation Today



Why was Peter emphasizing the Lord Jesus? Peter emphasized the Lord Jesus because there is salvation in no one else.

Peter had been arrested by the religious authorities because of the healing of the Beautiful Beggar. The religious authorities held Peter and John overnight in jail and then questioned him the next day. They wanted to know by what name or by what power they had healed the Beautiful Beggar.

Peter explained how the Old Testament prophecies applied to Jesus and His resurrection. Jesus was the Cornerstone which the builders rejected. Peter pointedly told the religious leaders that Jesus was the Messiah of the Old Testament and they had crucified Him.

Peter declared that there is no salvation except in Jesus. God gave no other name under heaven that had been given among men by which we must be saved. Therefore, the Name of Jesus was the only way of salvation. Notice that Peter turned the subject to salvation, and not just healing. Peter was interested in saving all people, including the religious authorities who were persecuting him.

Peter serves as a great example of grace under fire. Even when his persecutors surrounded him and questioned him, Peter put all the attention upon salvation in Jesus Christ.

No Other Name

1. **Salvation**. Peter proclaimed salvation through Jesus Christ, the Risen Savior.

2. **No One**. Peter declared that there was salvation under no one else but Jesus.

3. **Name**. The Name of Jesus was the only Name for salvation.

4. **Given**. God had given the Name of Jesus as the only Name for salvation.

5. **Men**. God wanted men to know about salvation in Jesus Christ, so God gave men the single Name of Jesus and no other Name.

6. **We**. Living holy in the family of God means that we know that only in the Name of Jesus can a person be saved.

7. **Saved**. We rejoice today because God wants everyone to be saved in the Name of Jesus, but most people are unwilling to accept Jesus as Savior.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus is the only Name given among men for salvation.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that people only come to the Father through Jesus and no one else.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the exclusive salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by proclaiming the Name of Jesus for salvation, because the Name of Jesus is the only Name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming the Name of Jesus today?

HALLELUJAH !

11

Religious Council Today

On the next day after arresting Peter and John, the rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, all of high priestly descent, were all present. They placed Peter and John in the center of the Council and began to inquire of them. They wanted to know by what power, or in what name, they had performed this great miracle of healing of the Beautiful Beggar.

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, he told them that both they and all of Israel should know that by the Name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene--Whom they had crucified and Whom God raised from the dead--the Beautiful Beggar stood before them. Peter also applied the prophecy that the Stone which the builders rejected has become the Chief Cornerstone. Only in Jesus was their salvation because there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.

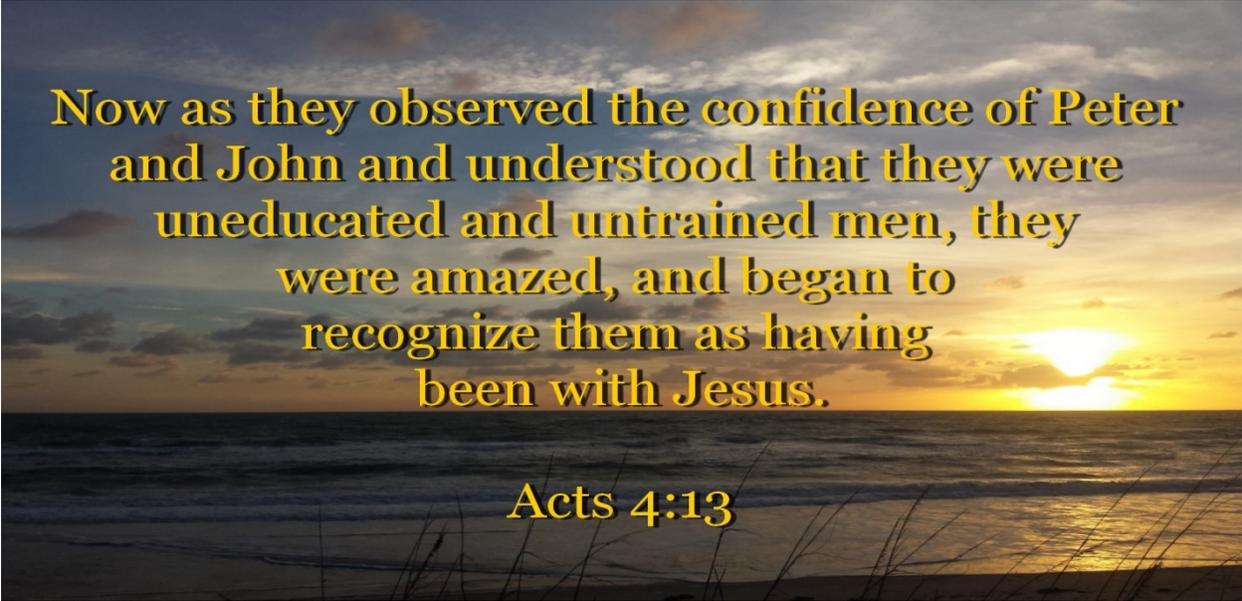
As the religious Council observed the confidence of Peter and John, they understood that they were uneducated and untrained men. They were amazed and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus. They had nothing to say in reply because the Beautiful Beggar was standing before them as absolute proof of the resurrection and power of Jesus Christ. They began to confer with one another after ordering Peter and John removed from the Council. They could not deny the noteworthy miracle had taken place and everyone in Jerusalem knew it. They decided to warn them to speak no further.

Having summoned Peter and John, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all the Name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said, “whether it is right the side of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge. For we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.” The Council then threaten them further, but let them go because they could find no fault with them and they were afraid of the people. The Beautiful Beggar was more than 40 years old.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 112

Confidence Today

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and casting long shadows. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and some clouds. The water in the foreground is dark and reflects the light from the sun. The text is overlaid in a yellow, serif font.

Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13

What drew the attention of the Council members? The Council members noted that Peter and John were very confident.

The Council members were amazed by Peter and John. They began to recognize them as having been with Jesus. When the disciples of Jesus speak with the authority of the Holy Spirit, no wisdom and no education and no training can withstand them.

The religious authorities had dealt with Jesus previously. They had witnessed how He had spoken before them. They crucified Jesus, but He had no intention of defending Himself. He had every intention to lay down His life, like a sheep led to slaughter.

As Peter and John were speaking to the crowd, the priests and the captain of the Temple and the Sadducees came up to them. They were greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. They laid hands on them and put them in jail

until the next day. Many of the people, however, heard the message and believed. The number of them was about 5000.

Uneducated

1. **Observed**. Why were the Council members amazed? They were amazed by the confidence of Peter and John as they spoke out confidently, yet they were not trained or educated according to the tradition of the Council members.

2. **Confidence**. Peter and John spoke out with confidence, not like the scribes and other religious authorities. They spoke with the same confidence that Jesus had when He taught the multitudes.

3. **Uneducated**. Peter and John were fishermen, uneducated in the eyes of the religious authorities. Yet, they studied under the Greatest Teacher this world has ever known, Jesus Christ.

4. **Amazed**. The religious authorities were amazed by Peter and John.

5. **They**. The Council members faced a “we” versus “they” situation, where they were amazed by Peter and John.

6. **Recognized**. Living holy in the family of God means that the religious authorities recognized Peter and John as having been with Jesus. We would all like that same recognition as disciples of Jesus, that people could tell we had been with Jesus.

7. **Jesus**. We rejoice today because being with Jesus changed our lives forever and we stand as living testimonies to the loving power of Jesus Christ in our lives.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Peter and John were called untrained and uneducated men, but they amazed the religious authorities.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by counting upon God to give us confidence to testify to the power of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by looking forward to people recognizing us as having been with Jesus.**

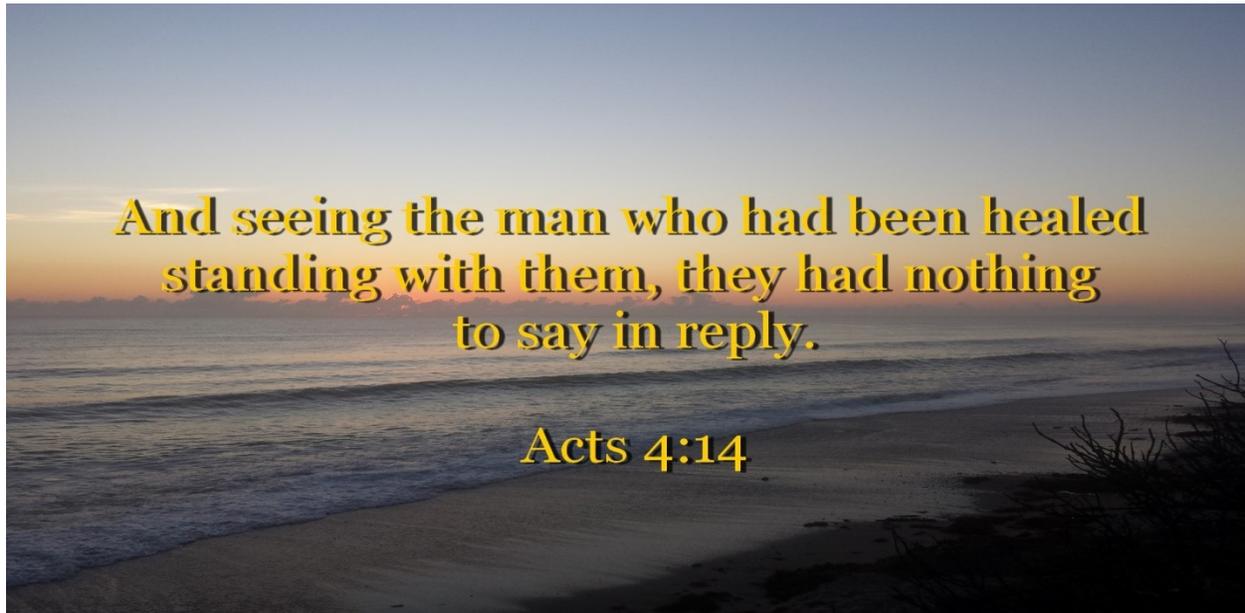
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by having confidence of the Holy Spirit to give us the words to speak with confidence about Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by counting upon the Holy Spirit to empower you to speak about Jesus, regardless of your training and education?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 113

Seeing Today



What silenced the Council members? The Beautiful Beggar standing with Peter and John silenced the religious authorities.

The presence of the Beautiful Beggar had a powerful effect upon the religious authorities questioning Peter and John. No one could argue with a powerful miracle that made the Beautiful Beggar stand on his own two feet for the first time in his life.

The religious Council wanted to undermine Peter and John and their testimony for Christ, but they could not overcome the evidence standing before them. The Lord Jesus changes lives forever and we stand for Him as living testimonies of His grace and mercy and power in our lives.

Peter gave an eloquent response to the question from the Council. Peter quoted the Bible and applied it authoritatively. The Holy Spirit filled Peter and John and they amazed the Council. Coupled with the Beautiful Beggar standing with them as living proof of the veracity of their words, the Council members fell silent, without making a reply.

The religious Council hated Jesus without cause. Jesus had promised His disciples that they would be hated just as He was.

Standing

1. **Seeing**. Who did the Council see standing with Peter and John? They saw the Beautiful Beggar standing with Peter and John.

2. **Man**. The Beautiful Beggar was a man everyone knew as a lame beggar, but now he stood before them healed.

3. **Healed**. Jesus healed the Beautiful Beggar through the hands of Peter and John and they testified that Jesus had done this great miracle. Their own piety had nothing to do with it.

4. **Standing**. The religious Council could argue about many things, but they could not gainsay the mere presence of the Beautiful Beggar standing before them with Peter and John.

5. **Nothing**. The religious Council could say nothing in reply to the words of Peter.

6. **Say**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Holy Spirit will always give us the words to say as we need them to testify about Jesus.

7. **Reply**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit rendered speechless the entire religious Council so that they did not make a reply.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Peter and John stood before the Council with the Beautiful Beggar standing beside them as living proof of the loving power of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by standing with others who proclaim the living Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His spiritual healing in our lives so that we stand before him holy and blameless.**

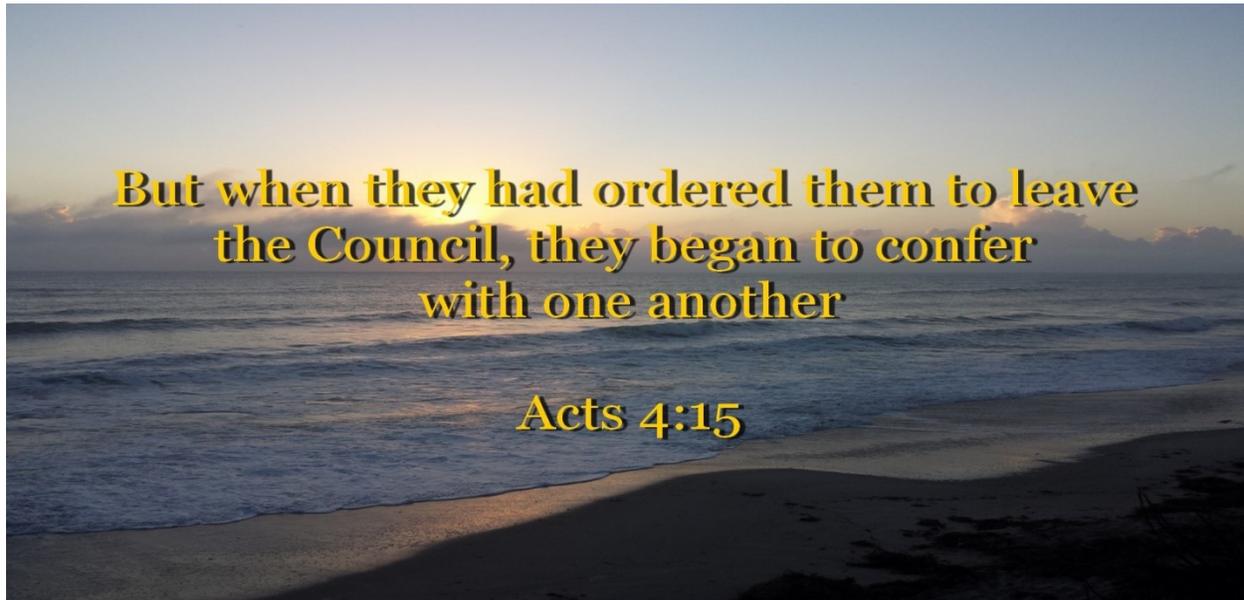
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by delighting in the power of Jesus to make the lame to walk, the blind to see and the deaf to hear. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that we were lame, blind, and deaf before Jesus healed us and now we stand as living testimonies of His marvelous grace for all to see?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 114

Ordered Today



But when they had ordered them to leave
the Council, they began to confer
with one another

Acts 4:15

What did the Council order Peter and John to do? They ordered Peter and John to leave the Council.

After Peter delivered his message to the Council, the religious authorities had no reply. Peter had preached salvation through Jesus Christ, saying there was no other Name under heaven given among men whereby men must be saved.

Peter also indicted the Council as the builders who rejected Jesus, the Chief Cornerstone. Peter quoted Scripture and applied that Scripture to the Council.

The presence of the Beautiful Beggar made it impossible for the Council to deny the miracle. The proof was standing right before them. The Council certainly wanted to silence all talk about Jesus being resurrected and alive, but they could not stop the power of God from working among the people of Jerusalem.

Peter and John were untrained and uneducated men, but the Council understood and recognized them as having been with Jesus. In fact, they could not have had better training in preparation to testify to the resurrection of Jesus.

Confer

1. **But**. But what would the Council do after Peter concluded his remarks? They ordered Peter and John to leave the Council.

2. **When**. The Council knew they could do nothing when the Beautiful Beggar was standing right there before them, so they concluded they should order Peter and John to leave.

3. **Ordered**. Having ordered Peter and John to leave, the Council moved on to other business.

4. **Leave**. The Council ordered Peter and John to leave because they understood they could gain no advantage by keeping them there.

5. **Began**. The Council began to confer with one another regarding their future actions.

6. **Confer**. Living holy in the family of God means that we understand that religious authorities will confer together about their response to God's activities.

7. **One Another**. We rejoice today because as the religious authorities confer with one another, the Holy Spirit empowers believers to withstand all the schemes of the devil and his children.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that religious authorities will take counsel against the work of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by expecting that the opponents of Jesus will not give up easily.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another to stand strong in Jesus, knowing that the children of the devil will always oppose Jesus' work.**

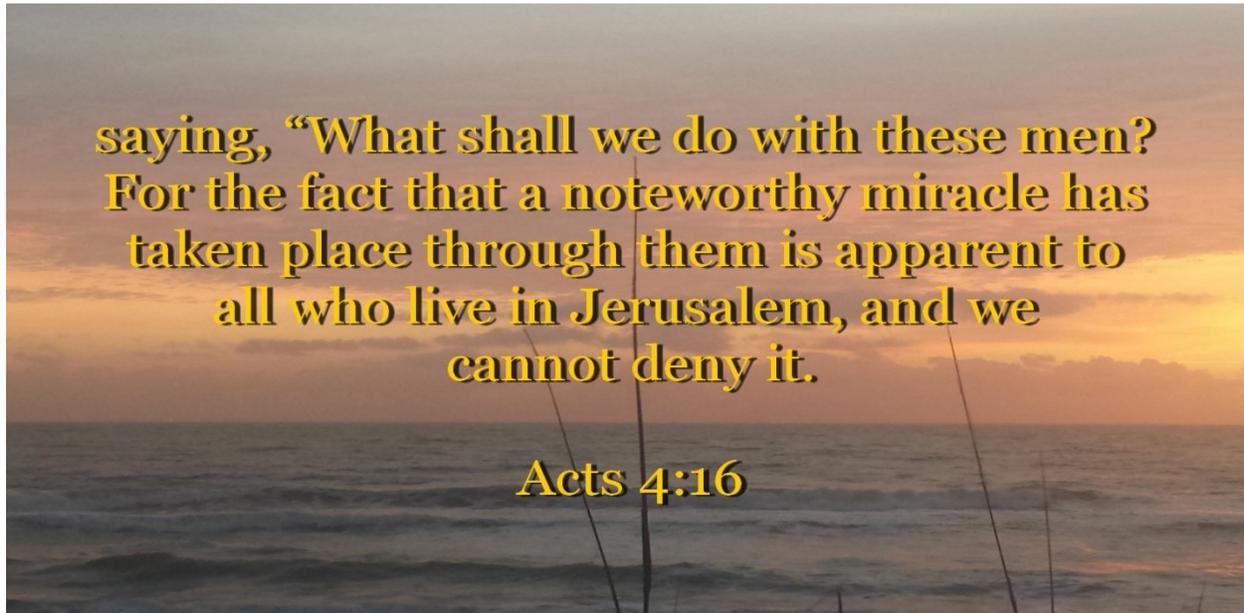
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by counting upon Jesus to empower His slaves to be faithful messengers of His loving power. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting the Holy Spirit to provide the perfect words to speak at the right time to glorify God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 115

Noteworthy Today



Did the religious authorities know what to do with Peter and John? The religious authorities began to question what they would do and how to do it.

Peter, John and the Beautiful Beggar stood before the Council and their presence and words completely confounded the Council. After Peter addressed them, the Council had no reply, particularly with the Beautiful Beggar standing before them.

The religious Council had to admit the fact that a tremendous miracle taken place in Jerusalem before a large crowd. Five thousand people believed that day because of the healing of the Beautiful Beggar. The crowd understood what God had done before their very eyes through Peter and John.

Based upon the facts before them and the testimony of the witnesses, the religious Council knew they could not deny the miracle which had taken place through Peter and John. The Council called the miracle noteworthy and it was apparent to all in Jerusalem.

Jesus left Jerusalem carrying His own cross. The religious Council thought they had won a great victory when Jesus died on the cross. They were completely wrong.

Apparent to All

1. **What**. Why did the religious Council question what they should do next? They questioned what to do because all Jerusalem knew about the miracle of the healing of the Beautiful Beggar through Peter and John.

2. **Do**. The Council knew they must do something, because they wanted to silence all talk about Jesus being resurrected.

3. **Fact**. The fact of the healing of the Beautiful Beggar was unmistakable and undeniable.

4. **Noteworthy**. The noteworthy miracle of healing was known to all in Jerusalem.

5. **Miracle**. The Holy Spirit worked a miracle and Peter and John testified that Jesus was alive and well as the resurrected Christ and only Savior.

6. **Jerusalem**. Living holy in the family of God means that all Jerusalem took note of the miracle and the religious leaders could not deny it.

7. **Deny**. We rejoice today because Jesus confirmed the authority of the apostles as His witnesses and the religious authorities were confounded and speechless.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus used Peter and John to work a noteworthy miracle.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that all Jerusalem learned of that great miracle.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that the enemies of Christ will not give up and will not give glory to God even after thousands of people in one day turned to Christ for salvation.**

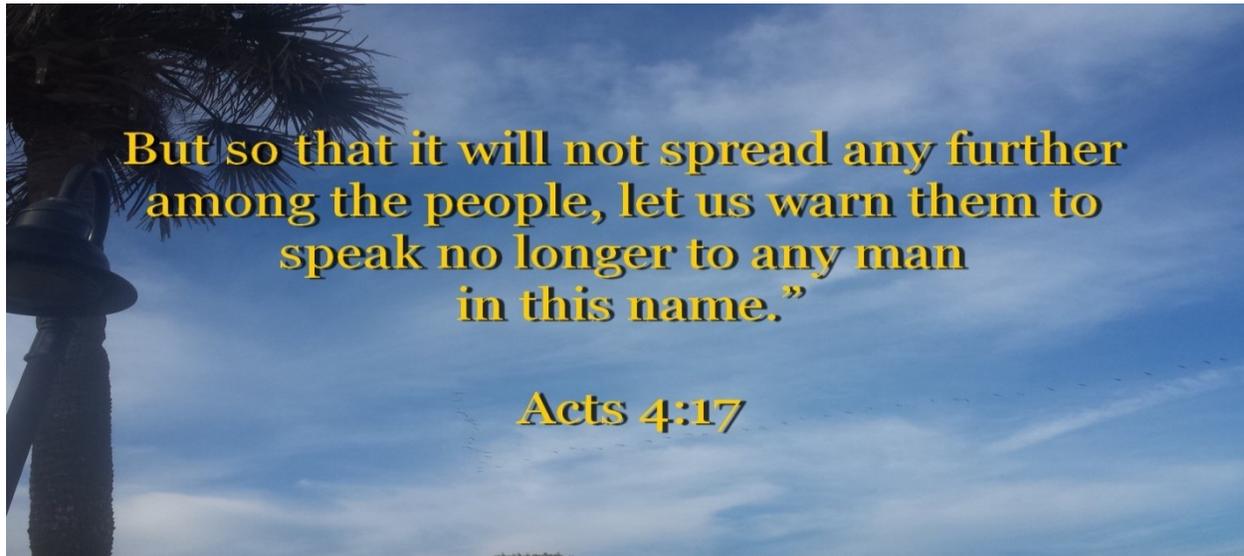
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that miracles do not always silence the opposition to God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that Jesus lives and confounds the children of the devil who scheme against Him?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 116

Spread Today



What concerned the religious authorities? The religious authorities were very concerned about the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The religious authorities arrested Peter and John and then questioned them before the Council the next day. Peter amazed them with his deft handling of the Old Testament and the power of his speech through the Holy Spirit.

The religious authorities also understood that the miracle of healing the Beautiful Beggar was well known throughout Jerusalem. People knew that the Beautiful Beggar was now standing on his own two feet with Peter and John in the center of the Council. Those facts were simply undeniable.

The religious authorities decided to try to silence Peter and John, hoping to stop the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They had no basis in fact to arrest Peter and John and the crowd was squarely behind Peter and John. They too knew that God was working through Peter and John.

The religious authorities saw that thousands of people were turning to the Name of Jesus Christ for salvation. They were concerned about losing the

nation of Israel and their positions of power to the Romans. To secure their own interests, they sought to silence the program of God and His apostles.

This Name

1. **Spread**. What was spreading? The religious Council was very concerned that news of the noteworthy miracle was spreading all over Jerusalem.

2. **People**. The news of the miracle was indeed spreading to all the people and the religious Council sought to stop the spread immediately.

3. **Warn**. To stop the spread, they decided to warn Peter and John about spreading that news further. The religious leaders were actually great enemies of the apostles.

4. **Speak**. The Council warned Peter and John not to speak about Christ or the miracle.

5. **Longer**. The Council commanded them to no longer talk about the healing of the Beautiful Beggar or speak in the Name of Jesus Christ.

6. **Man**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Peter and John spoke about the Man, Jesus Christ, so that thousands of people in Jerusalem were saved.

7. **Name**. We rejoice today because only in the Name of Jesus Christ can people be saved from the death penalty of their sins.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by expecting that religious people will try to stop us from speaking about Jesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the devil and his children will take note of the works of powers that God does and take action to stop people from talking about Jesus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another to keep talking about Jesus even as the opposition builds.**

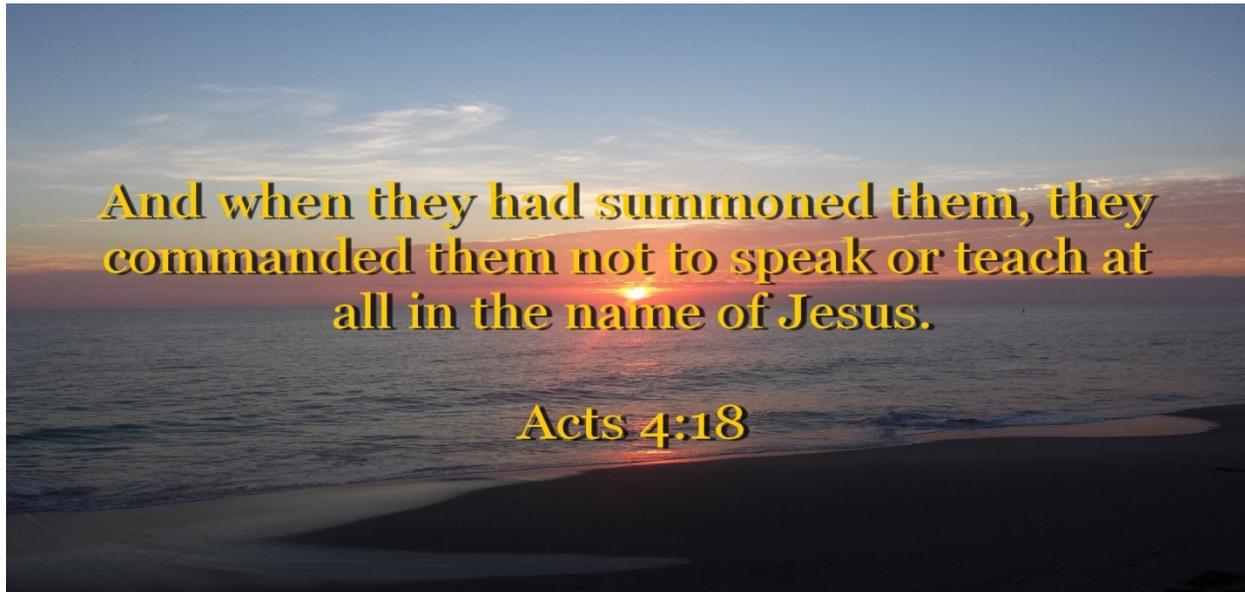
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by expecting religious people to warn us to shut up about Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by not being surprised when religious people warn you to stop speaking about Jesus?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 117

Commanded Today



What did the Council do when they summoned Peter and John? They commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the Name of Jesus.

The Council was amazed by the words of Peter and John. The Council knew they were untrained and uneducated men, but they recognized them as having been with Jesus. No one ever had better training and education than being with Jesus for three years.

To some degree, the Council was grasping for straws. They knew the crowd had seen a great miracle and backed the apostles. The Beautiful Beggar was standing right before them because Jesus had worked through Peter and John to heal him.

The Council commanded Peter and John not to speak or teach at all in the Name of Jesus. The prosecution of Peter and John would have gone against the grain of public opinion at that point. The Council also knew that the Roman government had little interest in persecuting Peter and John at that point, based upon Pilate's thoughts about Jesus.

The Holy Spirit empowered Peter and John to speak and act for God. Through their hands and voices Jesus continued His earthly ministry, to the great dismay of the Council.

Teach

1. **Summoned**. What did the Council do when they summoned Peter and John? The Council commanded them to stop speaking and teaching in the Name of Jesus.

2. **Commanded**. The religious Council exercised its authority by commanding Peter and John to stop

3. **Them**. The religious Council commanded both Peter and John to stop speaking and teaching about Jesus.

4. **Speak**. They forbade Peter and John from talking about what they had seen and heard.

5. **Teach**. They also prohibited them from teaching in the Name of Jesus.

6. **Name**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that some religious authorities will always hate the Name of Jesus and try to stop us from speaking and teaching in the Name of Jesus Christ.

7. **Jesus**. We rejoice today because Jesus lives today and we cannot stop speaking and teaching in His Name.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding we may be summoned before religious councils.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the example of Peter and John as they faced the Council.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by taking strength and courage from the examples of Peter and John as they faced religious persecution.**

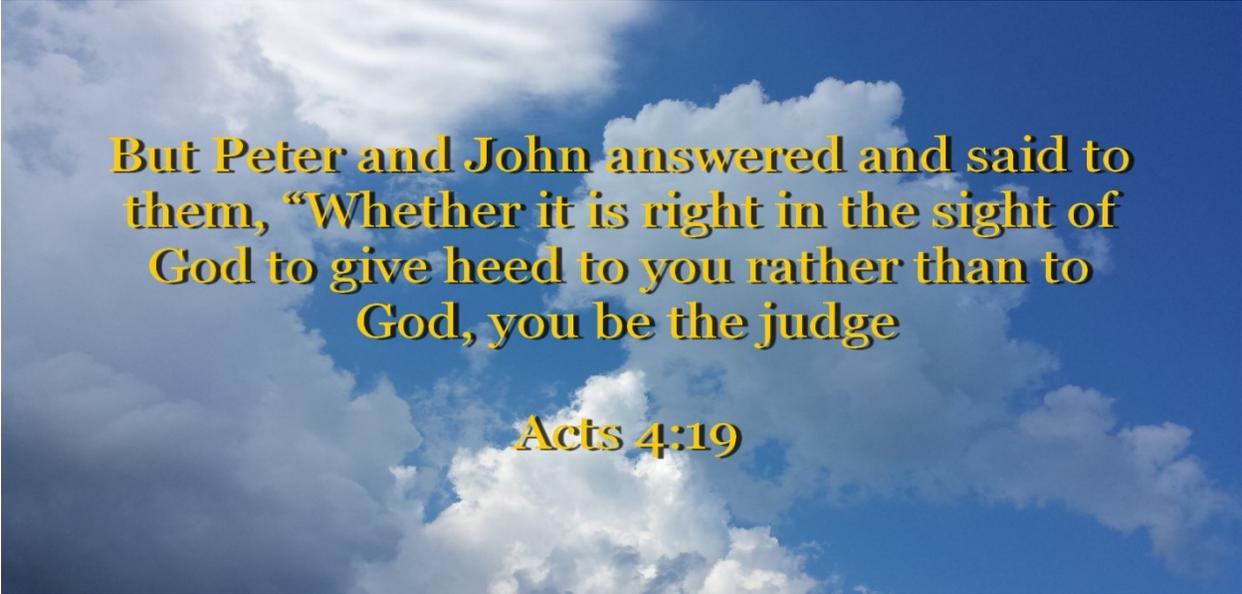
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by expecting people to command us to stop speaking and teaching in the Name of Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by living by the commands of God and not the commands of men that oppose God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 118

Right Today



But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge

Acts 4:19

How did Peter and John answer the Council? Peter and John said that the Council would be the judge.

Peter and John explained that the Council could decide as judge whether it was right in the sight of God for Peter and John to give heed to the Council rather than to God. Peter and John were clearly saying that the Council was speaking against God’s will. Peter and John claimed to be acting according to God’s will in proclaiming the Name of Jesus as the only means of salvation on earth. They testified that Jesus was alive and healing people.

Thousands of people had seen and heard the testimony of Peter and John and had seen the miracle of the Beautiful Beggar. Even the religious authorities could not deny what had happened. The religious authorities knew that the message of Jesus was spreading like wildfire through Jerusalem. The apostles were in spiritual control of the church and thousands of souls were being saved.

Therefore, when Peter and John posed the choices of doing God’s will or the Council’s will, clearly they were not the same thing. The Council

commanded Peter and John to be silent and God commanded Peter and John to speak up for God and God blessed them with miraculous signs confirming their ministry.

Judge

1. **Peter and John**. As apostles, Peter and John ministered together and prayed together and fellowshiped together. They also stood trial together.

2. **Answered**. Peter and John both answered the command by the Council to stop speaking and teaching in the Name of Jesus.

3. **Whether**. Peter and John answered the command from the religious Council with a question for the Council about whether it was right to do what the Council said or what God said.

4. **Right**. Peter and John put the question of justice before the Council by asking the Council to make a decision about what is right.

5. **God**. Peter and John cited a higher authority than the religious Council. They talked about acting in the sight of God.

6. **Heed**. Living holy in the family of God means that everyone must make a decision about heeding religious councils or God when their commands conflict with each other.

7. **Judge**. We rejoice today because Peter and John had already decided to follow the commands of God, but they wanted the religious Council to understand they were acting in the sight of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering we always act in the sight of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by reminding people that God determines what is right, not man.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by doing the will of God in challenging other people to do what is right in the sight of God.**

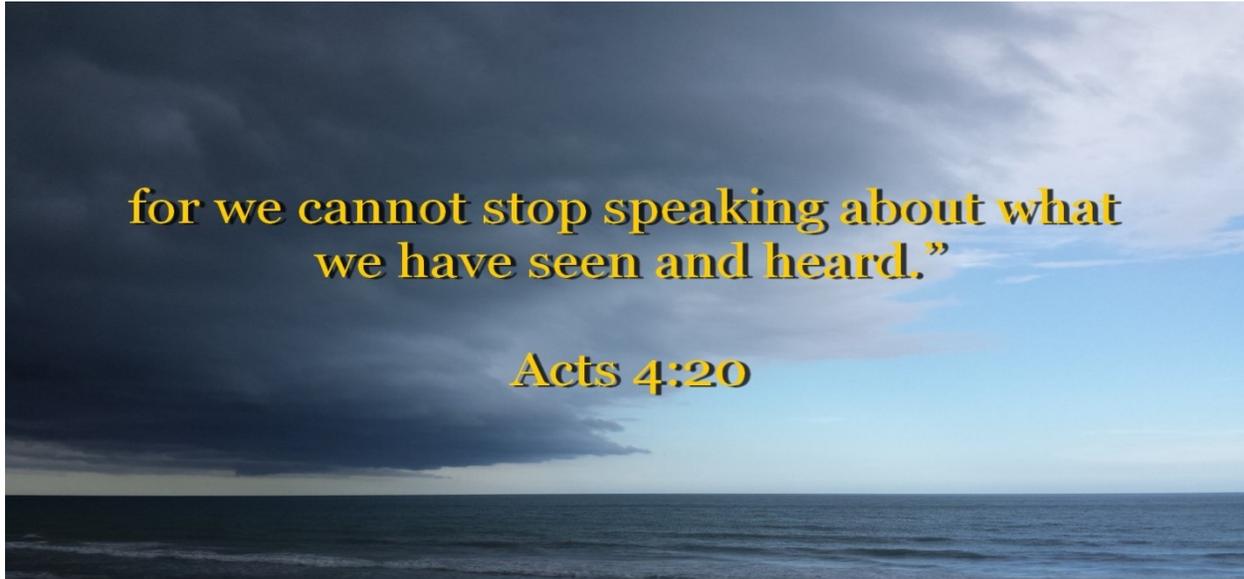
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by doing the right thing in the sight of God even if it conflicts with what religious leaders command us to do. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that we do what is right the sight of God first and foremost?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 119

Cannot Stop Today



Did Peter and John agree with the Council? Peter and John flatly disagreed with the command of the Council.

Peter and John declared that they were unable to stop speaking about what they had seen and heard. Notice that Peter and John were testifying as eyewitnesses of what they had seen and heard, just as Jesus had prophesied that the Holy Spirit would come upon them and they would be witnesses for Him by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Not only did Peter and John serve as witnesses of the power of the Holy Spirit in the works of God, but everyone in Jerusalem had become aware of the great miracles taking place through the ministry of the apostles. The Council understood their relative lack of power to overcome the ministry of Peter and John proclaiming the risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

Peter and John amazed the Council with their words and then with great boldness declared that they must do God's will. In this case, doing God's will meant ignoring the command of the Council and telling the Council of their intentions as they stood before the Council with the Beautiful

Beggar standing with them. All Jerusalem had seen and heard that God was at work through the apostles and thousands of people were saved.

Speaking

1. **We**. What did Peter and John say to remove all doubt about their intentions? Peter and John told the Council they were not going to stop speaking about what they had seen and heard regarding Jesus.

2. **Cannot**. Peter and John said they cannot stop speaking about Jesus.

3. **Stop**. Although the religious authorities commanded them to stop, Peter and John stood right before the Council and said they would not stop.

4. **Speaking**. Peter and John declared they would keep speaking about what they had seen and heard about Jesus.

5. **What**. Peter and John were keenly aware of what they had seen the Holy Spirit do, plus they had witnessed the miracle they had performed in the Name of Jesus.

6. **Seen**. Living holy in the family of God means that we praise God for recording the exact words of Peter and John regarding what they had seen and heard.

7. **Heard**. We rejoice today because Peter and John had not only seen Jesus at work, but they had heard the Holy Spirit coming like a rushing wind and they had heard also the cries of joy as the Beautiful Beggar leapt for joy, standing on his own feet for the first time in his life.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by speaking about what we have seen and heard regarding Jesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by never letting religious authorities stop us from speaking about what we have seen and heard about Jesus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that faithful men like Peter and John have always followed the commands of God rather than bowing before the threats of men.**

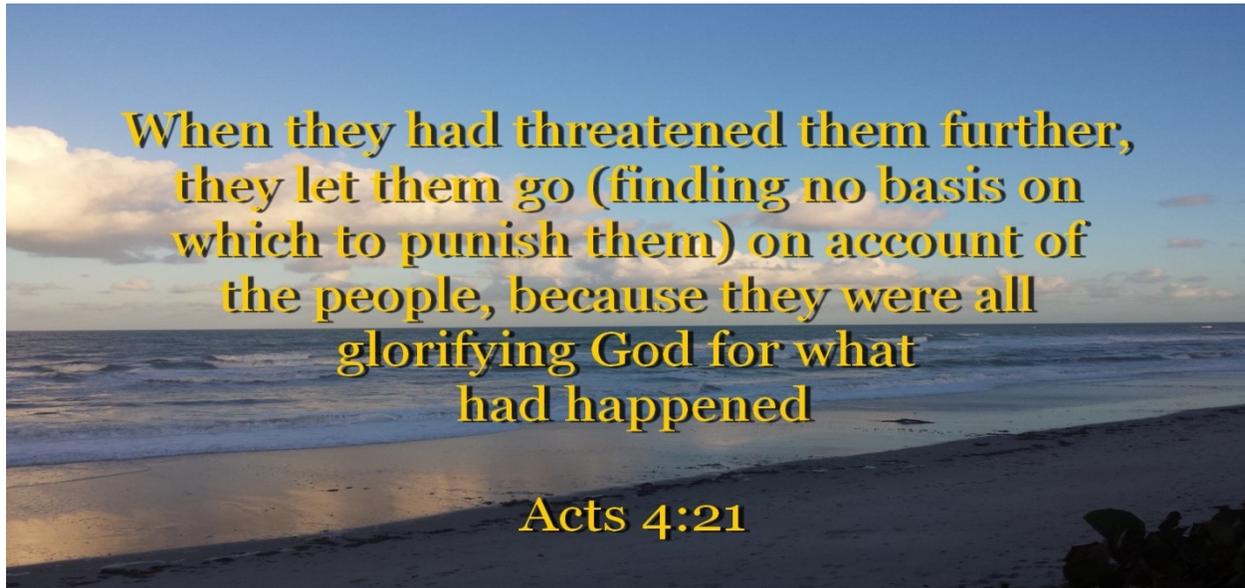
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by continuing to testify as to what we have seen and heard about Jesus even when people warn us and command us to stop. Will you live holy in the family of God today by continuing to speak about what you have seen and heard regarding Jesus?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 120

Threatened Today



How did the Council respond to the declarations of Peter and John? The Council threatened them further and let them go.

The Council understood they had no basis to punish Peter and John. But more importantly, the Council understood that the people were glorifying God for all that had happened. Peter and John were careful not to take any of the glory away from God for the great works of powers everyone had seen.

Confronted with the amazing words of Peter and John and the Beautiful Beggar standing before them, miraculously healed in the Name of Jesus Christ, the Council had no legal recourse against Peter and John. That does not mean they were not going to keep trying to stop the spread of the Name of Jesus.

The Council pinned their hopes to silencing Peter and John. No plans and no wisdom ever succeed against the plans of God. The Council hated Christ and they hated His apostles, all without cause. They crucified Jesus and now they had their sights trained on the apostles. This first arrest of

Peter and John was not the final battle, but the beginning of conflict between the apostles doing God's will and the religious leaders.

Glorifying God

1. **Threatened**. After hearing from Peter and John, what did the Council do to them? The Council threatened them.

2. **Go**. The Council then let Peter and John go because they had no basis to punish them.

3. **Punish**. The Council wanted to punish Peter and John and silence them forever.

4. **People**. The Council also had to take into consideration all the people in Jerusalem.

5. **Glorifying**. All the people in Jerusalem had taken note of the miracle worked through Peter and John and were glorifying God.

6. **God**. Living holy in the family of God means that people glorify God when they appreciate His work in their lives.

7. **Happened**. We rejoice today because God worked great miracles in Jerusalem so that people would take note and glorify Him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by expecting some religious leaders to threaten the people doing the will of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by glorifying God for the great works that He does among us.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving Jesus more because He brought thousands of people to salvation in Him through the faithful ministry of the apostles.**

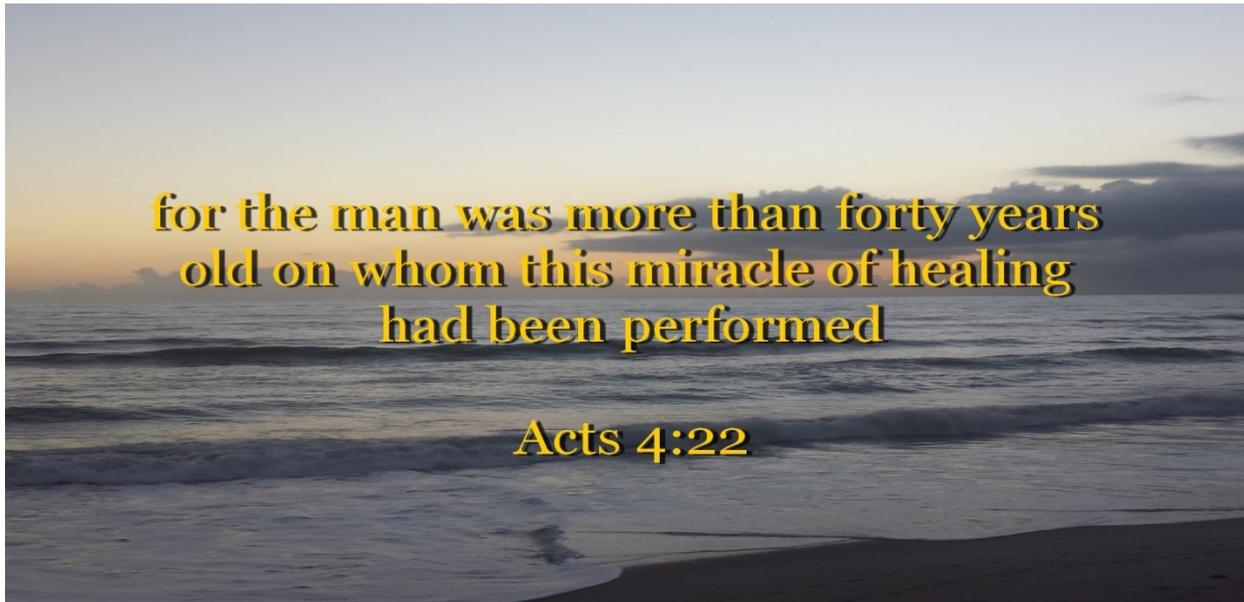
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the courage of Peter and John before the religious Council and their determination to follow God despite the threats from the Council. Will you live holy in the family of God today by following the example of Peter and John and proclaiming what you have seen and heard about Jesus so that people will glorify God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 121

Miracle Today



How old was the Beautiful Beggar? He was over forty years old when Peter and John healed him in the Name of Jesus Christ.

The religious Council knew they could not hold Peter and John, because the crowd was glorifying God for the miracles performed through their hands. In the case of the Beautiful Beggar, he was over forty years old and had been lame since birth. He sat near the Beautiful Gate for a long time begging alms. Everyone passing by that way knew where he sat and why he sat there.

One day Peter and John were going into the Temple to pray and the Beautiful Beggar asked for alms and they gave him the gift of walking instead. People saw what had happened to begin glorifying God. Indeed, the news of the event spread through all Jerusalem. Thousands of people were saved because of the miracles Jesus was doing through the hands of the apostles.

The Council had warned and threatened Peter and John with punishment if they taught or spoke about the Name of Jesus Christ. Peter and John then challenged them to determine whether it was right for them

to obey the Council or God. They then declared that they could not stop speaking in the Name of Jesus Christ and proclaiming what they had seen and heard.

Healing

1. **For**. Why did the religious leaders release Peter and John? The religious Council could not hold Peter and John because the crowd knew about the miracle performed through their hands.

2. **Man**. The man healed was the Beautiful Beggar. Everyone knew that he had previously begged alms at the Beautiful Gate because he was lame from birth.

3. **More**. The Beautiful Beggar was more than forty years old.

4. **Forty**. Because he had been laying there for so many years as an adult begging alms, the news about him spread quickly and he stood on his own two feet glorifying God.

5. **Miracle**. God did a great work of power in healing the Beautiful Beggar by the hands of Peter and John and everyone knew it.

6. **Healing**. Living holy in the family of God means we remember that the healing of the Beautiful Beggar triggered religious opposition.

7. **Performed**. We rejoice today because God performed a miracle, knowing that the saints would glorify God while His enemies bitterly opposed any display of His power.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God's power always draws opposition.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that He heals people even after forty years of suffering from physical problems.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by counting upon God to perform the right miracles at the right time as a testimony of His loving power.**

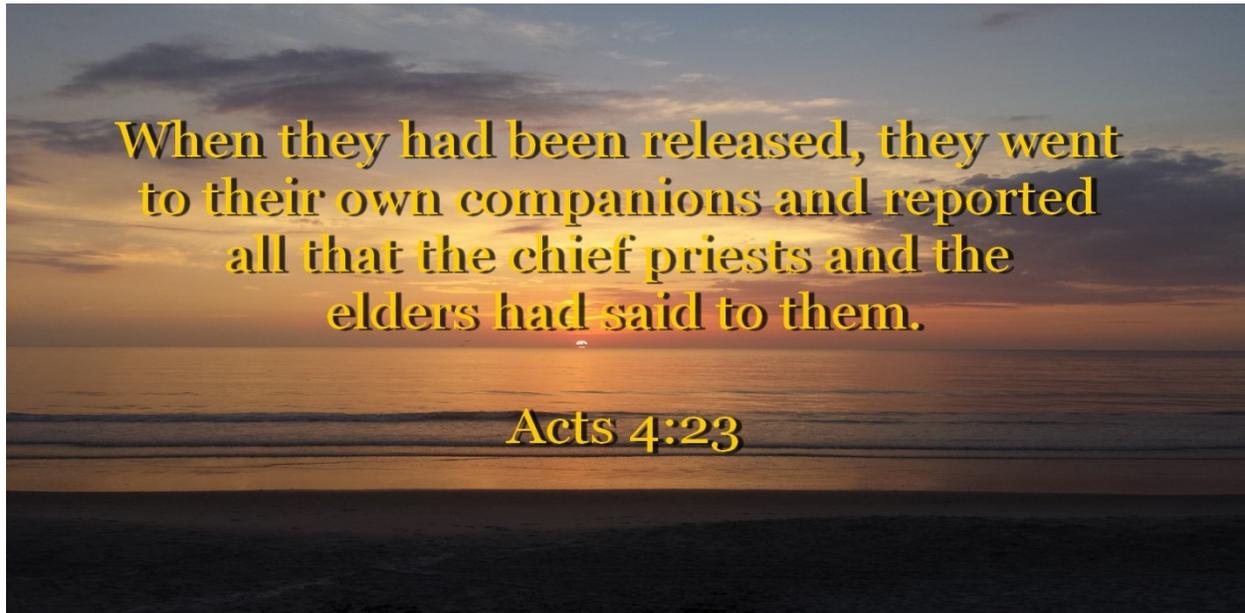
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God acts after the counsel of His own will. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to do the right thing at the right time, if it takes forty years in some cases?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 122

Released Today



What did Peter and John do when they were released by the Council? They went to their own companions.

Peter and John had quite the story to share with the other believers. They recounted all that had happened to them. They described how the chief priests and the elders had interrogated them, and then warned them and commanded them. The religious Council was quite intent upon silencing Peter and John. The Council recognized that many people in Jerusalem were glorifying God because of the miracle concerning the Beautiful Beggar.

Peter consistently quoted Scripture to the Council and showed how it was being fulfilled right then. The builders had rejected Christ, the Chief Cornerstone.

The religious Council understood that they could not punish Peter and John because everybody in town knew about the miracle of the Beautiful Beggar. Therefore, the religious Council decided to release Peter and John.

Peter and John were great examples of boldness provided by the Holy Spirit. They also worked the miracles through the power of Jesus. The Holy Spirit and Jesus worked hand-in-hand with the Father. Jesus was the only Name given under heaven among men for salvation.

Reported

1. **Released**. When the religious Council released Peter and John, where did they go? They returned to their own companions.
2. **Went**. They went out from the religious Council and returned to the saints.
3. **Own**. Peter and John returned to the saints, their own people.
4. **Reported**. There they reported all that had happened with the religious Council.
5. **Chief Priests**. Peter and John told the saints about the chief priests and their warnings.
6. **Elders**. Living holy in the family of God means that saints understand that even religious elders can oppose the work of God.
7. **Said**. We rejoice today because Peter and John remembered what the religious Council said to them and the saints understood the Scriptures were being fulfilled.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by watching the Scriptures fulfilled before our eyes too.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by gathering with the saints and reporting to them what God is doing in our lives.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by joining together with other believers to talk about how the Scriptures are fulfilled in our lives.**

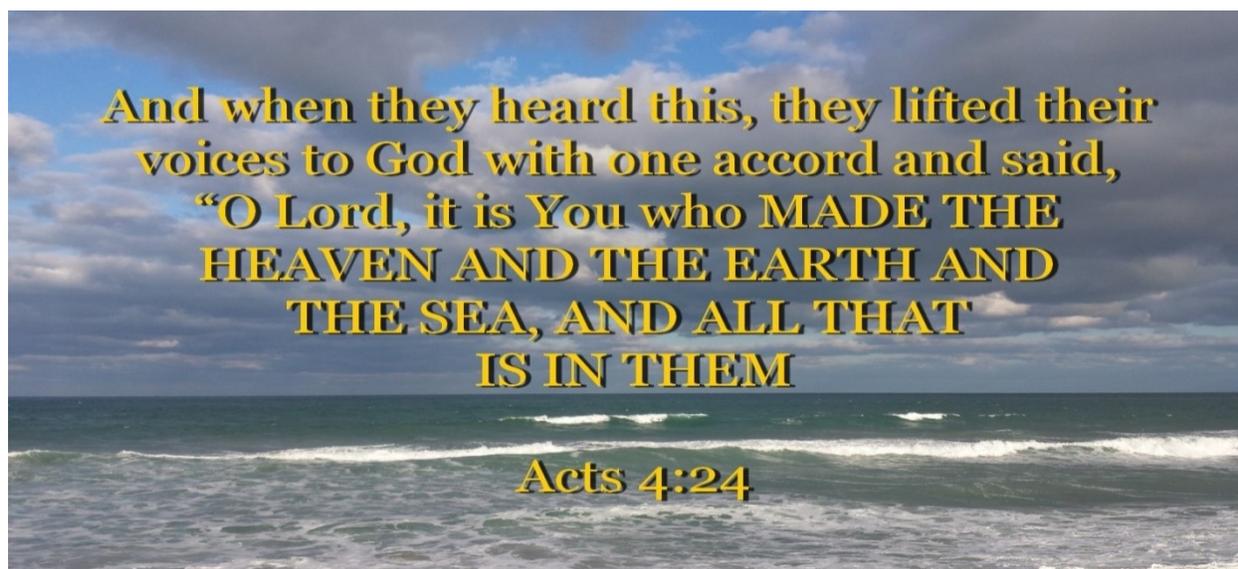
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by reporting to other saints the great things that God has done. Will you live holy in the family of God today by reporting to the other saints what God has been doing in your life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 123

Voices Today



How did the people respond to Peter and John? When they heard their report, they lifted their voices together and glorified God.

When saints give their testimony about recent persecutions and events, other saints hearing the report often thank God for deliverance of the saints. In this case, the saints joined together and quoted the Old Testament. They acknowledge that the Lord made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

The saints recognized God as the Creator of both heaven and earth. As they considered the great deliverance of Peter and John from the religious Council, they attributed that deliverance to God Who created all things and had all power.

The saints glorified God because they understood that His power was unlimited. God created the heaven and the earth. Nothing happened beyond the scope of His care and concern.

The saints quoted Scripture as part of their praise of God. They worshiped God by ascribing to Him the honor, dominion, and majesty due to His Name.

One Accord

1. **They**. How did the saints glorify God? They glorified God by quoting Scripture.

2. **Heard**. When the saints heard the report from Peter and John, they reacted by worshiping God.

3. **Voices**. The saints lifted their voices to God with one accord.

4. **One**. As one united voice, the saints quoted Scripture and worshiped God.

5. **Lord**. They recognized the Lord as the one Who made the heaven and the earth.

6. **Made**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that God made the earth and the heaven and so retains power over all things.

7. **All**. We rejoice today because God made all things and we are the craftsmanship of God, created in Him for good works, including praising God and worshiping Him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by worshiping God by quoting Scripture.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God as we delight in His deliverance of other saints.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by lifting our voices together to glorify God.**

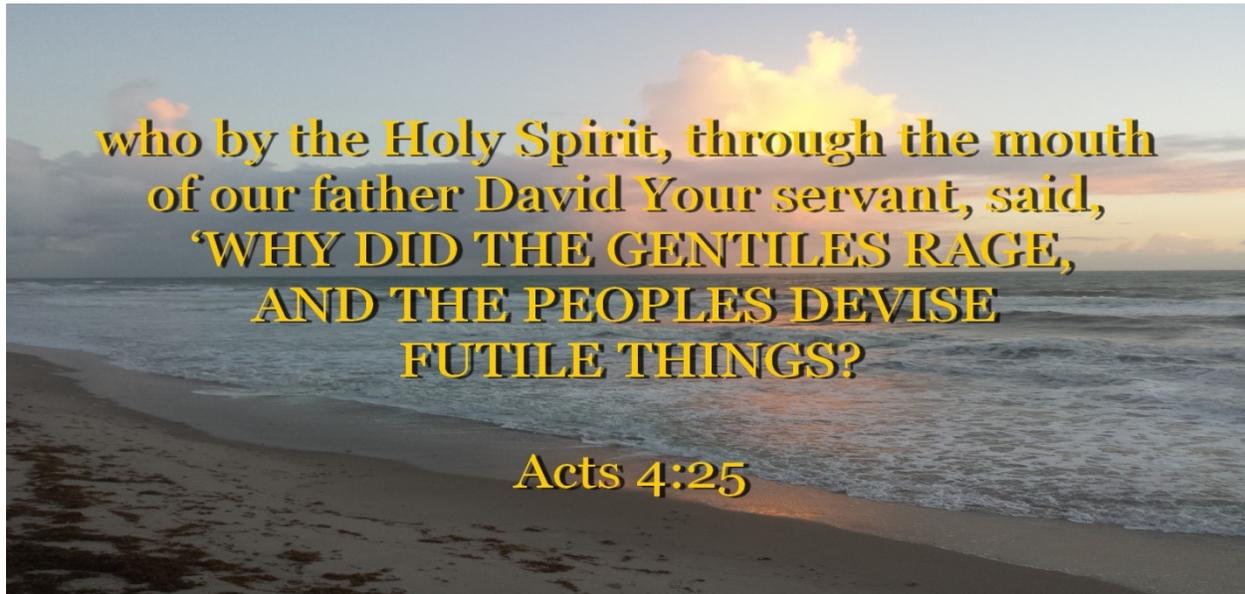
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God who created heaven and earth and all that is in them. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God because He is the creator of all things?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 124

Holy Spirit Today



How did the saints respond to Peter and John when they were released? The saints responded by quoting Scripture.

The saints applied words spoken centuries before by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of their father, David. David asked a question about why the Gentiles raged and the peoples devised futile things.

The saints understood that the Gentiles crucified Jesus. The Roman government tried Jesus in a Roman court with Pontius Pilate as the judge. Pontius Pilate was willing to release Jesus after examining Him and finding no guilt in Him. The Jews had delivered Jesus to Pontius Pilate for execution, because they had no authority to kill him.

The saints saw the release of Peter and John by the Jewish tribunal as the fulfillment of prophecy. Both the Roman government and the Jewish government were raging against God and His purposes.

The saints were praising God because Peter and John reported all the events before the Council. The saints were delighted they were released

unharmed. The saints also looked deeper and understood how the Scriptures applied to the ongoing work of Jesus Christ as Risen Savior.

Through

1. **Who**. Who spoke through the mouth of David? The Lord, through the Holy Spirit, spoke through the mouth of David.

2. **Holy Spirit**. The Holy Spirit moved men and they spoke for God.

3. **Mouth**. The Holy Spirit spoke through the mouth of David

4. **Why**. David asked why do the Gentiles rage and the peoples devise futile things?

5. **Gentiles**. The Gentiles included the Roman government and the people were the Jews who sought to kill Jesus.

6. **Rage**. Living holy in the family of God means that we understand the people rage against God and Jesus, the son of God.

7. **Futile**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit, speaking through David, foretold the events surrounding Christ centuries before they actually took place so that we would understand and glorify God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God that He spoke to us through the Holy Spirit and recorded those words in the Bible.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking heed to what God said in the Bible.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God because His word remains true forever and ever.**

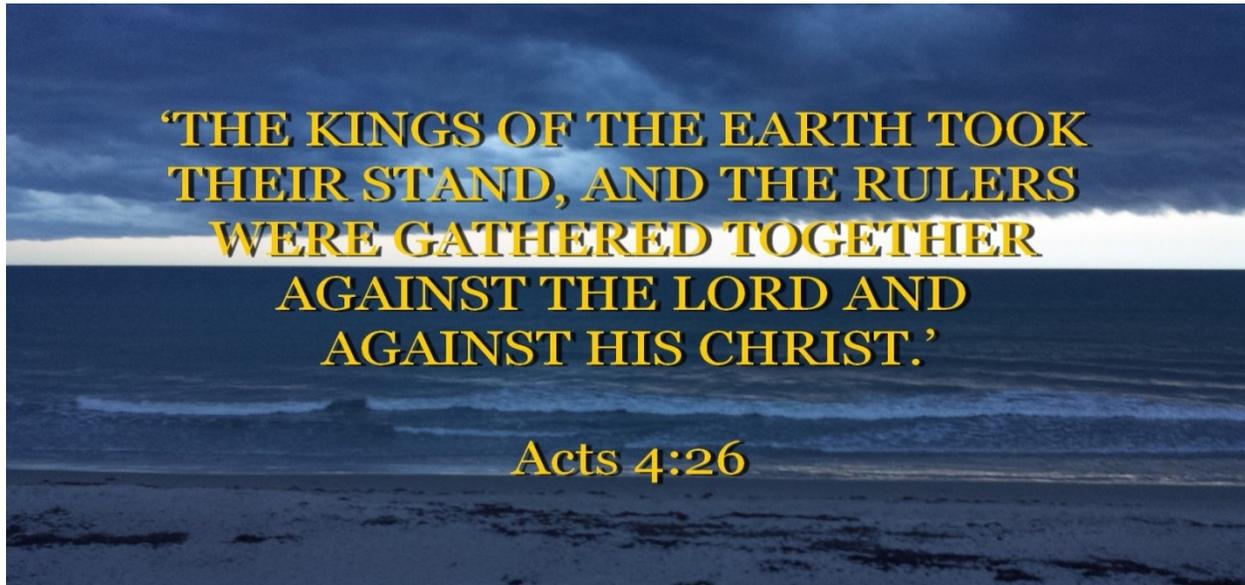
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by heeding to the words spoken centuries before by the prophets of God and recorded in the Bible. Will you live holy in the family of God today by enjoying the prophecies of God that bring light and hope to our lives every day?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 125

Gathered Together Today



Who opposed Yahweh and His Christ? The kings of the earth and the rulers were gathered together against Yahweh and His Anointed.

When Peter and John returned to the saints, the saints were praising God for their release and also quoting Scripture. They saw the fulfillment of the Scriptures and the events unfolding before them.

The saints remembered the words of David which he had spoken centuries before. The Gentiles were raging against God. The saints also specifically understood that the kings of the earth took their stand against Yahweh and His Anointed.

The saints understood the spiritual nature of the conflict before them. Peter and John were not merely facing human enemies, but they were also involved in spiritual conflict. The human kings were fighting against Yahweh and Jesus, the One anointed by Yahweh.

The saints had watched God work great miracles in Jerusalem, the city of God. The Holy Spirit had come and filled the apostles. God worked a great

miracle through Peter and John, healing the Beautiful Beggar. Everyone had taken notice of God's activity in Jerusalem.

Against the Lord

1. **Kings**. What did the kings do? The kings took their stand against God and His Anointed.

2. **Stand**. The kings stood against God, and particularly Jesus and His ministry on earth, culminating in His death and resurrection.

3. **Rulers**. The religious rulers conspired with the Roman government to crucify Jesus without cause.

4. **Gathered**. The rulers gathered together and killed Jesus and persecuted the apostles and followers of Christ.

5. **Against**. The rulers gathered against Yahweh, the Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them.

6. **Yahweh**. Living holy in the family of God means that we love Yahweh because he first loved us.

7. **Christ**. We rejoice today because Jesus, the Anointed Son of God, took flesh and dwelt among us.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding why the rulers and the kings gathered together to stand against God and His Anointed.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking heed to the words of God so that we endure with God's grace and power the persecutions hurled against us by the rulers and the kings.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God, the Creator of heaven and earth, who always triumphs over all kings, all rulers and all powers because He is the Lord of lords and King of kings.**

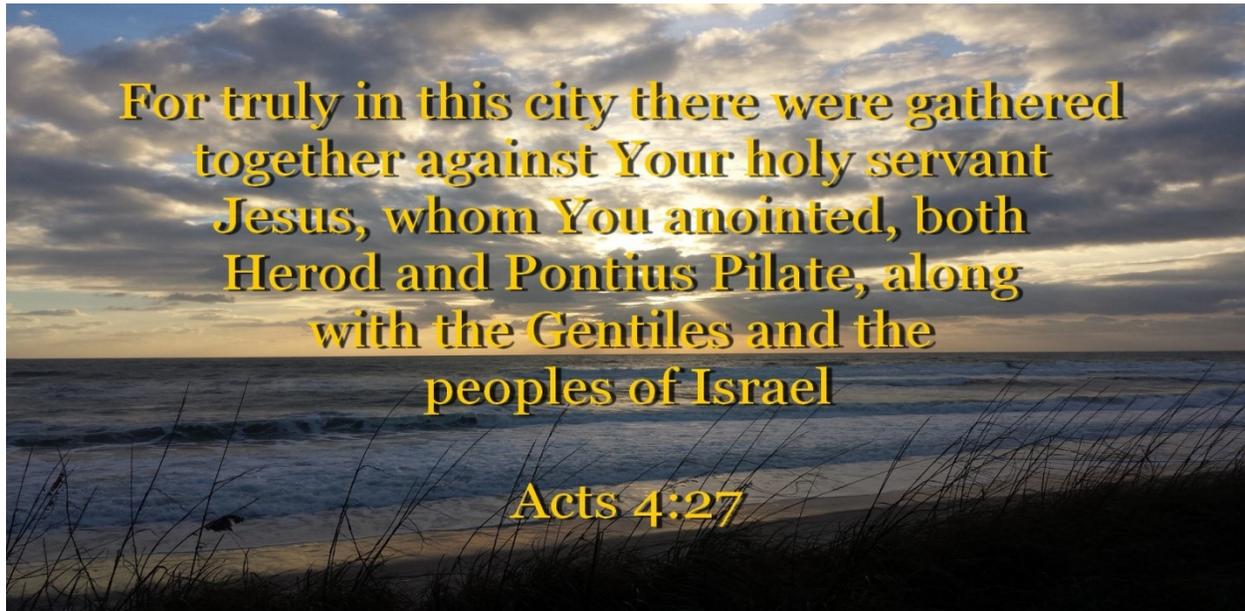
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God because He triumphs over all kings and all rulers. Will you live holy in the family of God today by exulting in God and His Anointed One, Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 126

This City Today



Who gathered against Jesus? The saints noted that Herod, Pontius Pilate, the Gentiles, and the peoples of Israel all gathered against Jesus.

The saints recognized how the words of David were fulfilled in the crucifixion of Jesus. Both Gentiles and Jews gathered together against Jesus, the Servant of Yahweh.

Those same groups also opposed the apostles of Jesus. The saints recognized the power of God at work in Jerusalem. All the groups opposed to Jesus and the apostles also understood that miracles were taking place in Jerusalem, but they refused to acknowledge God's hand had been doing them.

The spiritual blindness controlling the religious leaders and the Gentiles opposed to Christ demonstrated that those groups never knew God. Jesus had repeatedly proclaimed that if anyone loved God, then they would love the son of God, Jesus Christ.

The spiritual war did not end with the crucifixion of Jesus. The battle continued against Jesus and His apostles. Thousands of people came to Christ as Savior in Jerusalem and began glorifying God. The same groups that hated Jesus now opposed the saints.

Peoples of Israel

1. **City**. Why were people gathered in the city? Some people were gathered in the city to oppose the work of Christ.

2. **Jesus**. The enemies of Jesus gathered against Him.

3. **Herod**. Herod held power as a Jewish king controlled by the Romans.

4. **Pontius Pilate**. Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor who condemned Jesus to death.

5. **Gentiles**. The Romans were largely Gentiles occupying the land of Israel.

6. **Peoples**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that even the peoples of Israel gathered together against Christ.

7. **Israel**. We rejoice today because although Israel rejected Jesus, one day the people of Israel will be turned from the least of them to the greatest of them to Jesus.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that evil forces still gather together to oppose Jesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God to overcome all the evil forces arrayed against Jesus and His church.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising Jesus for His absolute power to overcome all of His enemies.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that the Romans, the Gentiles, the kings and the governors still gather together to oppose Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by standing strong in God the Almighty against all the enemies of Jesus?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 127

Your Hand Today



Who controlled Herod, Pontius Pilate, the Gentiles, and the peoples of Israel? God caused those folks to do what God predestined to occur.

God never causes people to sin and never tempts anyone. Even so, God raises up one nation and humbles another. God exalts one ruler and debases another. God works all things after the counsel of His will.

Herod was the king of Israel, but he acted under the direction of Rome. Pontius Pilate was the governor appointed by Rome and held the real power of human government. The Gentiles occupied important positions in Israel. The peoples of Israel came out of exile in Babylon back to their homeland of Israel.

In time the Romans came and took control of the land of Israel. All of these things happened according to the ultimate plan of God. Israel had been historically unfaithful to God and it broke every covenant God made with them.

When Jesus came to earth in the flesh, the peoples of Israel rejected Him. He came to His own, but His own rejected Him. The Jewish leaders handed Jesus over to the Roman government for crucifixion. Pontius Pilate examined Jesus and was prepared to release Him, but the Jews demanded His crucifixion and Pontius Pilate gave in to their demand.

Predestined

1. **Do**. Why were the Romans, the Jewish officials, the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel gathered to Jerusalem? They were gathered to Jerusalem to do whatever God's hand and God's purpose predestined to occur.

2. **Whatever**. All the opponents of Jesus were gathered together to do what God predestined.

3. **Your**. Regarding God, the apostles knew Yahweh brought all those things to pass.

4. **Hand**. God brought to pass whatever He wanted.

5. **Purpose**. God's purpose could not be frustrated.

6. **Predestined**. Living holy in the family of God means that what God predestined to occur through His hand and His purpose will always take place.

7. **Occur**. We rejoice today because whatever God predestined will certainly occur.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that whatever God predestined, His hand and His purpose will bring to pass.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God because He has predestined all things according to His will.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the predestination of God.**

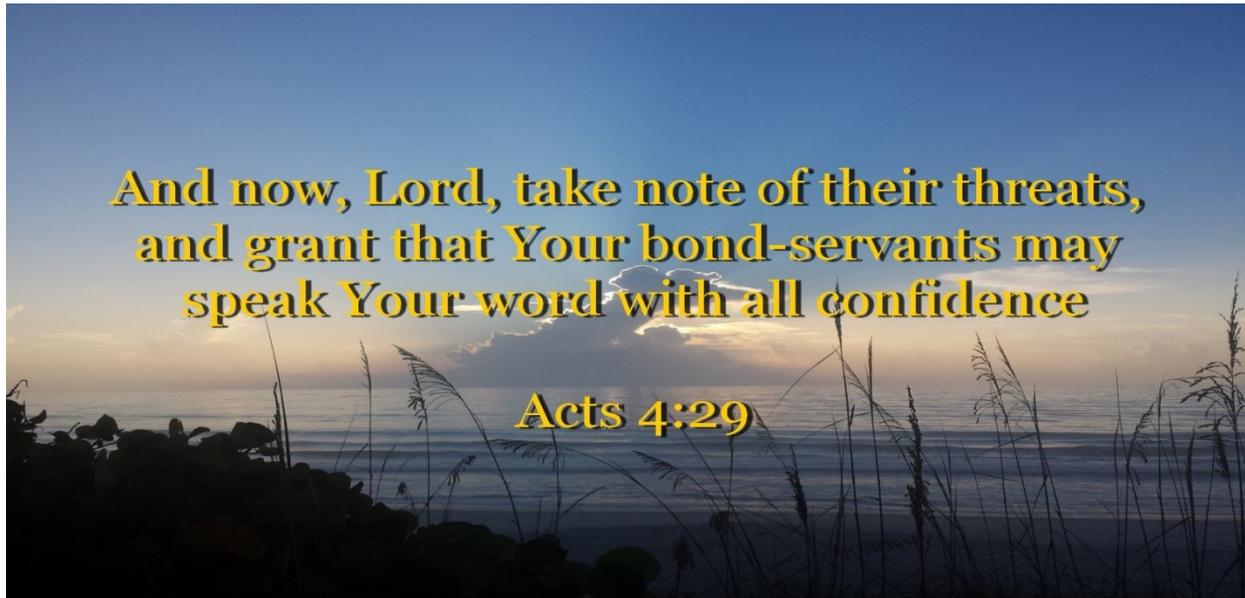
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting God's hand and purpose to achieve His predestined goals. Will you live holy in the family of God today by delighting in God's predestination?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 128

Threats Today



What did the saints ask the Lord to do? They asked the Lord to take note of their threats.

Having seen the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, along with Herod and Pontius Pilate, gathered together against Jesus, the holy servant of God and anointed by God, the saints prayed. The saints prayed for two things.

First, the saints prayed that the Lord would take note of their threats against the apostles and the saints. The saints recognized that the Lord gathered all these people together against Jesus. They also understood that the Lord did all these things according to the predestined will of God. Therefore, because of the great power of God, they prayed that the Lord would take note of their threats and take action to benefit the saints.

Second, the saints prayed that the Lord would grant that His slaves may speak His word with all confidence. Notice that the saints did not intend to stop speaking. They asked for God to give them confidence in speaking. You may recall that Peter and John displayed great confidence in speaking before the Council.

The saints considered themselves the slaves of God. They felt bound to do God's will. They recognized God's sovereign power over all things and all people. Therefore, they prayed for His divine help.

Confidence

1. **Now**. Why did the saints pray about now? They asked the Lord to take note of the threats now.
2. **Lord**. As Lord of heaven and earth, the saints knew that the Lord could help them immediately.
3. **Threats**. The saints were dealing with immediate threats.
4. **Grant**. The saints petitioned the Lord to grant help to the saints to speak up in the midst of threats.
5. **Speak**. The saints understood that they needed God's help to speak with confidence.
6. **Word**. Living holy in the family of God means that the saints speak with confidence even when faced with serious threats.
7. **Confidence**. We rejoice today because God gives confidence to proclaim His great love even for the people who make threats against Him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praying for the Lord to help us face threats.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by counting upon the Lord to grant confidence to proclaim His great love.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praying together that the Lord would grant the saints confidence to speak His word with boldness.**

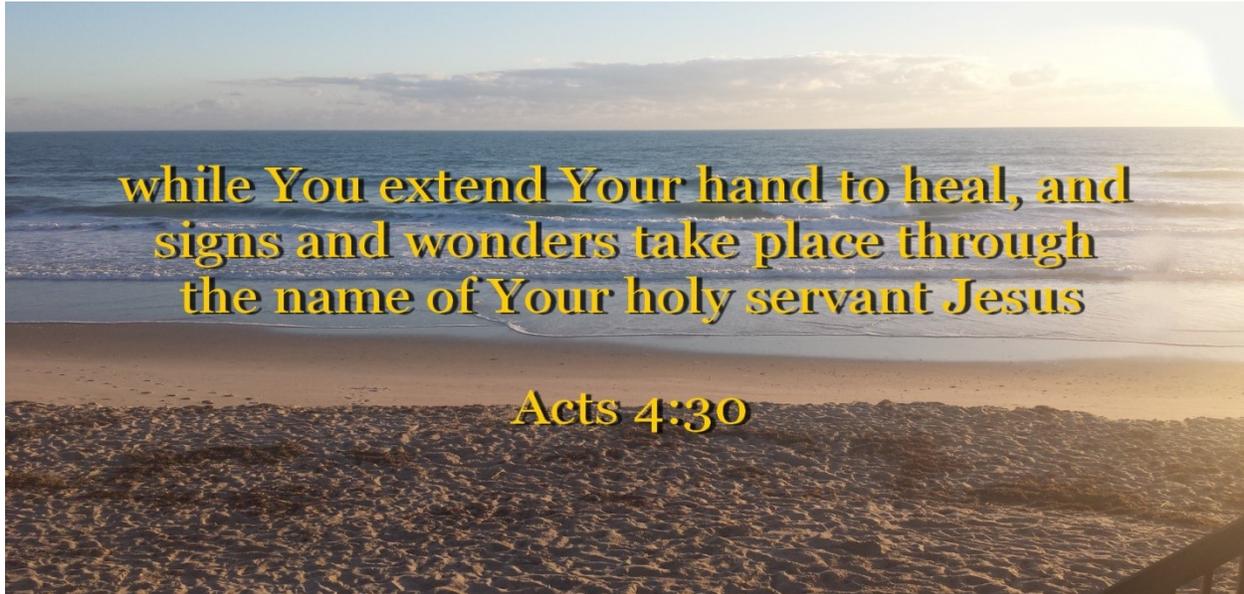
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by requesting that the Lord grant us confidence to speak His word. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praying for confidence to speak His word?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 129

Heal Today



What was God doing with His hand? God extended His hand to heal.

The saints understood the power of God and prayed accordingly. They had watched God extend His hand to heal the Beautiful Beggar. In addition, the saints had seen God work signs and wonders in the Name of His holy servant Jesus.

The saints believed that God was completely active among them. They had seen the signs and wonders He performed. They were amazed and awed by His power.

The saints sought boldness and confidence and knew that God could provide it. They understood they were in a hostile environment, filled with people opposed to God. Those enemies had crucified the Lord Jesus Christ not long before. They understood what their enemies could do.

The saints did not stop believing in God. They did not feel forsaken by God. They had every intention of continuing to proclaim the Name of Jesus, but knew they needed the power of God to continue that ministry.

The saints also understood that the Name of Jesus was powerful. His enemies commanded Peter and John to stop teaching and preaching in the Name of Jesus. Peter and John, however, made it clear they would never stop.

Holy Servant

1. **You**. What did the saints say about the power of God? The saints understood that God performed great signs and wonders in the Name of Jesus.
2. **Extend**. The saints recognized that God extended His hand to heal.
3. **Hand**. The hand of God provided healing and people in Jerusalem took note.
4. **Signs**. God confirmed the authority of the apostles with great signs.
5. **Wonders**. God also performed miracles so that everyone in Jerusalem knew God was working in the Name of Jesus Christ.
6. **Name**. Living holy in the family of God means that He exalts the Name of Jesus Christ.
7. **Jesus**. We rejoice today because Jesus remains the only Name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by watching God extend His hand today and do marvelous things.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for the signs and wonders He performed in the early church.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by proclaiming the Name of Jesus as God works to glorify that Name among the people.**

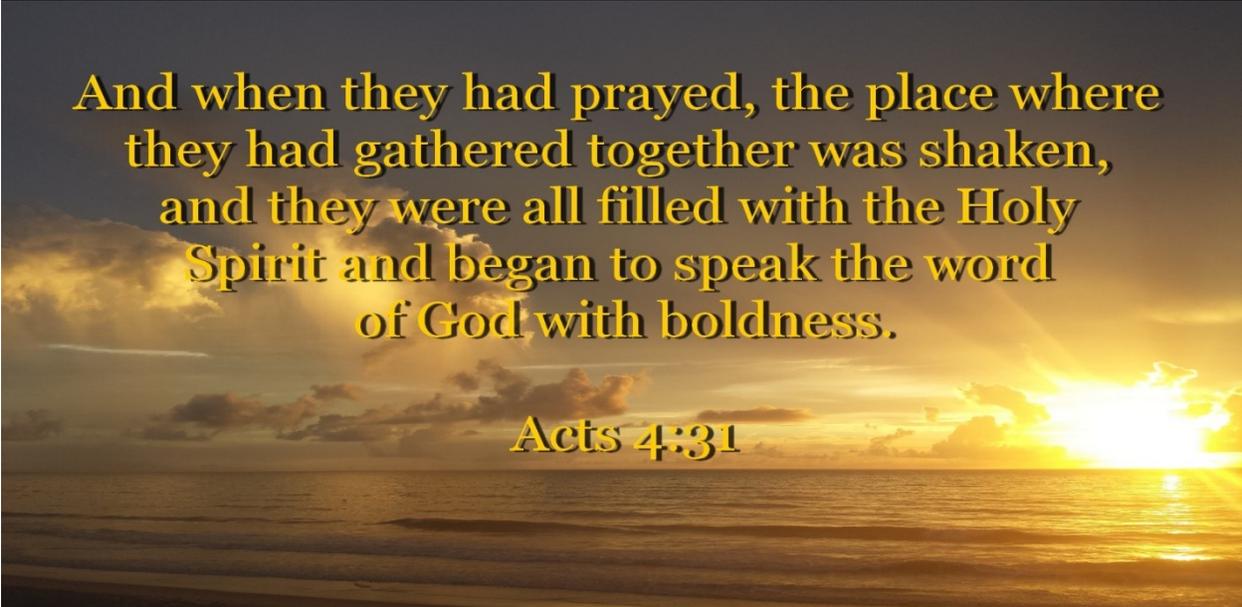
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by expecting that God will glorify the Name of Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming His Name with confidence while God extends His hand today?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 130

Shaken Today



And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:31

What happened when the saints prayed? When the saints had prayed, the place where they were gathered together was shaken.

God loves to make His presence known in His saints. In this case, the building where the saints were gathered was shaken. At that same time they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

At the moment of salvation, Jesus baptizes each believer with the Holy Spirit. From that moment forward, the Holy Spirit indwells every believer. God seals every believer with the Holy Spirit of promise at the moment of salvation. The abiding presence of the Holy Spirit testifies that we are the children of God and have been born of the seed of God. We are new creations in Christ and all things have become new.

The saints gathered in Jerusalem had witnessed the birth of the church. Jesus had promised that the apostles would be filled with the Holy Spirit. Like a rushing wind, the Holy Spirit descended from heaven and came upon the apostles at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit empowered the apostles to be the witnesses of Jesus Christ to all the world, beginning in Jerusalem, and then

Judea, Samaria, and the rest of the world. Peter and John were filled with the Holy Spirit as they testified about Jesus. The Holy Spirit gave them the words to say and the confidence to say them boldly.

Filled

1. **Prayed**. How did God make His presence known to the believers gathered for prayer? God shook the building and filled the saints with the Holy Spirit.
2. **Place**. The early church liked to get together in the same place for prayer.
3. **Shaken**. After the saints prayed, the building was shaken.
4. **Filled**. Like Pentecost, the saints were filled with the Holy Spirit.
5. **Holy Spirit**. The Holy Spirit filled the group gathered together.
6. **Word**. Living holy in the family of God means that we trust the Holy Spirit to help us speak the word with boldness.
7. **Boldness**. We rejoice today because God gives us boldness to spread His message of love to others.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praying together with other believers.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by enjoying the filling of the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting the Holy Spirit to provide great boldness in spreading the word of God.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praying for God to give us the boldness to speak His word. Will you live holy in the family of God today by counting upon God to fill you with His Spirit?

HALLELUJAH !

12

United Congregation Today

Having been released, Peter and John went to their own and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. Everyone then lifted their voice with one accord to God, praising God that He had made heaven and earth and all that is in them.

They continued by praising the Holy Spirit, Who through the mouth of our father David, Your servant, who asked why the Gentiles rage in the people devise foolish things. David observed that the kings of the earth took their stand and their rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ.

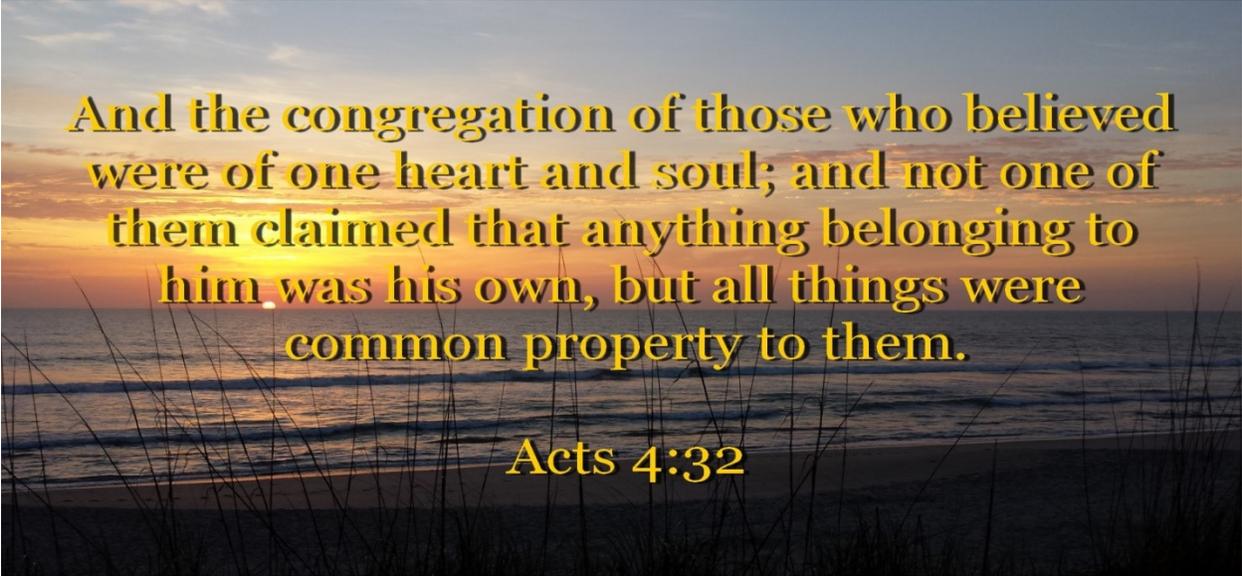
Peter applied that prophecy to their daily in Jerusalem, indicating that both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel all took action against Jesus, Your Holy Servant, Whom You anointed. They did whatever God's hand in God's purpose predestined to occur. The people then prayed that God would take note of their threats, and grant His slaves would speak His word with all confidence. They knew that God would extend His hand to heal, and do signs and wonders through the Name of Your Holy Servant Jesus. When they had prayed, the place where they gathered

was shaken and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 131

One Heart Today



And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them.

Acts 4:32

What was the congregation like? The congregation was of one heart and soul.

Thousands of people had been saved through the ministry of the apostles in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit was active and people were amazed by the signs and wonders being displayed by God.

The apostles were dealing with opposition from the religious council. The church, however, was thriving. The religious leaders wanted to put a stop to the preaching and teaching in the Name of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit brought great unity to the congregation. They were unified with one heart and soul. They had heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ and believed in the resurrected Savior.

Not one of the members of the congregation claimed that anything belonging to him was his own property. Instead, the congregation treated things as congregational property. All of the assets of the congregation were being shared freely.

The congregation loved Jesus and the Holy Spirit filled them. Because of the love in the congregation for each other and for God, their earthly assets were submitted to God for disposition at His good pleasure.

Common Property

1. **Congregation**. How big was the Jerusalem congregation of saints? The congregation of saints in Jerusalem numbered in the thousands.

2. **One**. No one claimed to own anything, but used their assets to supply the needs of the saints in the congregation.

3. **Claimed**. None of the saints claimed the right to keep their property to themselves.

4. **Anything**. The saints gave up their personal property rights to everything and no one claimed anything as their own.

5. **Own**. By laying aside their claims of property as their own, they promoted unity and by the grace of God supplied the needs of all the saints so that no one lacked anything.

6. **All**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that the saints of the early church laid aside all claims to private property.

7. **Property**. We rejoice today because saints still sell lands and property to help other saints in need.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the needs of others in the congregation.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by striving to be of one heart and soul with other members of the congregation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by using our resources provided by God to meet the needs of the family of God.**

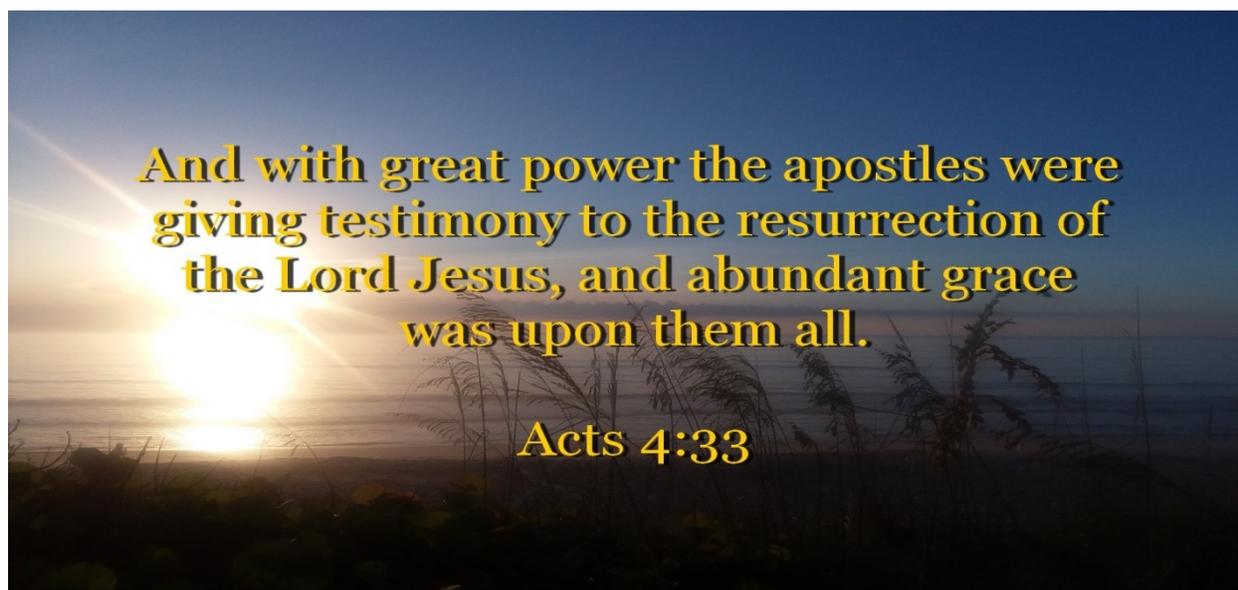
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by using our resources to meet the needs of other members of the congregation. Will you live holy in the family of God today by using your resources to help meet the needs of people in the family of God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 132

Power Today



What were the apostles doing? The apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He commanded the apostles to remain in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them. He declared that they would bear witness of His resurrection.

At Pentecost, the prophecy of Jesus was fulfilled. The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles and they began proclaiming in Jerusalem with great power and authority the resurrection of Jesus in Jerusalem. They testified to what they had seen and heard.

Abundant grace was upon all of them. The grace of God supplies our lives and provides strength for living. By nature Grace means that God gives us things we do not deserve and we cannot earn.

The early church saw God work great signs and wonders through the hands of the apostles. The apostles Peter and John even amazed the Jewish Council with their words.

The religious leaders sought to stop the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. After arresting Peter and John, the Council released them with a warning not to speak any more in the Name of Jesus.

Abundant Grace

1. **Power**. How did the apostles give testimony? They gave testimony with great power.

2. **Apostles**. Jesus had promised that the apostles would be His witnesses and the Holy Spirit would empower them.

3. **Testimony**. The apostles bore testimony to what they had seen and heard.

4. **Resurrection**. The apostles testified to the resurrection of Jesus as eyewitnesses.

5. **Jesus**. The apostles focused upon proclaiming the Name of Jesus as Savior of the world.

6. **Grace**. Living holy in the family of God means that the apostles had abundant grace upon them to do their ministry.

7. **All**. We rejoice today because the grace of God was upon all the apostles and they performed signs and wonders and miracles in the Name of Jesus.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by counting upon God to provide power to the saints to testify about Jesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by following the example of the apostles and proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the apostles and the grace of God upon them as they bore eyewitness testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

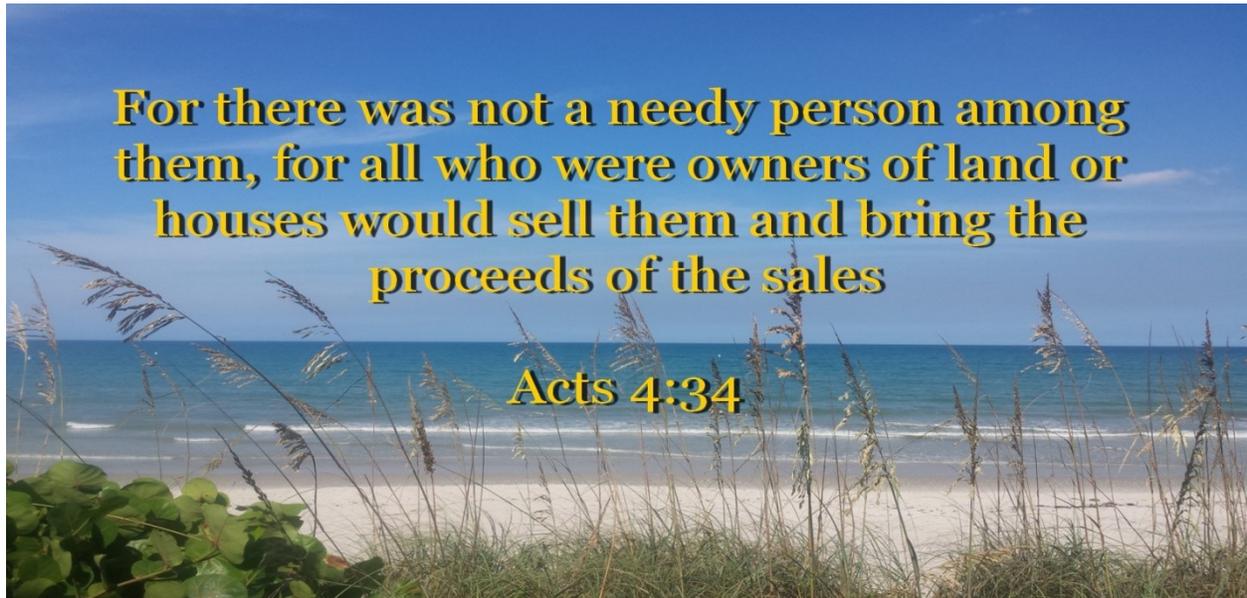
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by proclaiming the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by following the example of the apostles and proclaiming Jesus as the risen Savior?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 133

Owners Today



What effect did the grace of God have upon the congregation? The congregation began sharing all of their assets with one another.

The grace of God provides all that we have and all that we need. God declared that His grace is sufficient for all things. By the grace of God, there was not a needy person in the congregation of the early church.

Saints sold their property consisting of land and houses. They took the proceeds of those sales and used them to meet the needs of the saints and the congregation. By the grace of God, the needs of the saints were being met.

God intended for saints to look after saints. The saints could not rely upon the Roman government to provide for them. Today, many people look to the government to provide for them and take care of them from cradle-to-grave.

Distributing the money from the sale of houses and lands required great wisdom. The apostles would be directly involved in distributing funds

to meet the needs of the congregation on an individual basis. Using the funds from the sales would require careful stewardship of those resources.

Sell

1. **Not.** Were some members of the congregation needy? There was not a needy person in the congregation.

2. **Needy.** The congregation cared about the needy and met their needs.

3. **Land.** Saints sold their land to raise funds for feeding and caring for the needy.

4. **Sell.** The owners of houses and lands would sell them.

5. **Bring.** The sellers would use the proceeds to meet the needs of the congregation.

6. **Proceeds.** Living holy in the family of God means that members of the congregation liquidated fixed assets like houses and lands to meet the needs of the congregation.

7. **Sale.** We rejoice today because the sale of lands and houses brought money which supplied the needs of the needy members of the congregation by the grace of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the early church meeting the needs of one another.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by using our houses and lands for the glory of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by turning over all of our assets to Jesus Christ to use as He deems best.**

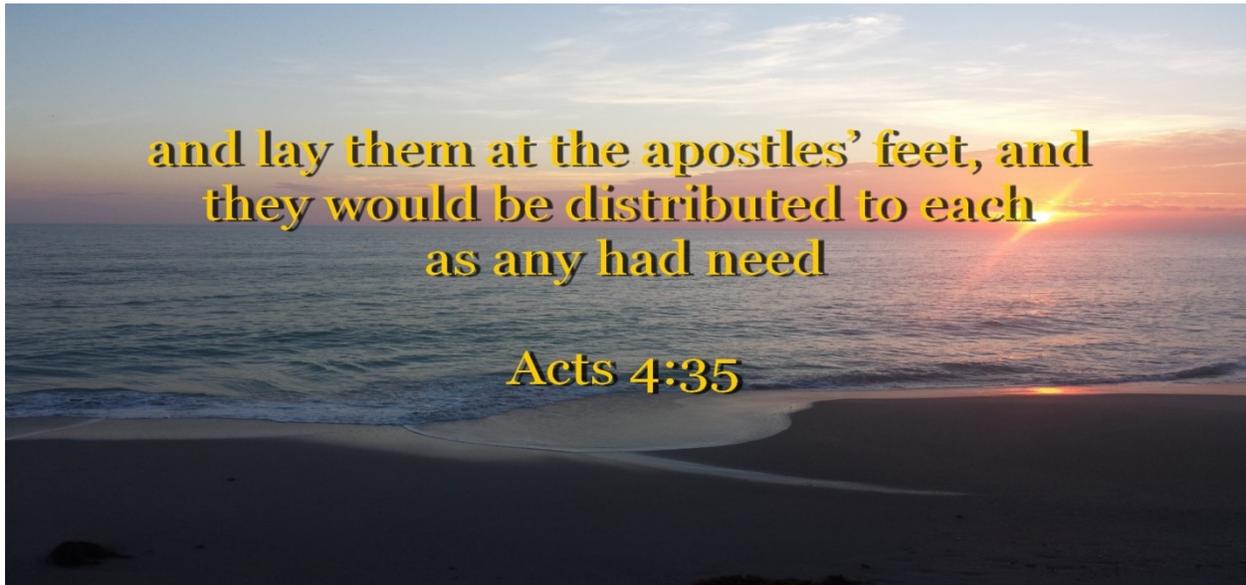
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by giving our assets to Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by looking for ways to use your assets to meet the needs of other saints?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 134

Apostles Today



What happened to the money from the sale of lands and houses? The proceeds of those sales were laid at the feet of the apostles.

Nobody in the congregation suffered from unmet needs because of the grace of God. God moved people to sell their houses and lands and then take the proceeds of those sales and bring them to the apostles.

The apostles then exercised God's wisdom to distribute that money according to the needs of the congregation. Remember that the congregation now consisted of thousands of people with a great variety of needs.

The congregation may have been expecting Christ to return at any moment. For whatever reason, many people sold their lands and houses. Because the distribution of resources required wise stewardship, the funds were laid before the apostles, at their feet.

The apostles also had to keep track of the needs of the congregation. With the congregation numbering in the thousands, the apostles likely could not have known the individual needs of each person. Therefore, others would

be involved in meeting the needs of the congregation and learning about the needs of individuals.

Distributed

1. **Lay**. What did the congregation do with the proceeds of their sales? They brought the proceeds of their sales to the apostles.

2. **Them**. Having sold their lands and houses, the saints received funds and gave them to the apostles for distribution.

3. **Apostles**. The saints laid the proceeds of sale at the feet of the apostles.

4. **Feet**. Laying the proceeds at the feet of the apostles meant the congregation trusted the apostles to distribute the funds according to the will of God using the wisdom of God.

5. **Distributed**. The saints knew the apostles distributed the funds to the needy in the congregation.

6. **Each**. Living holy in the family of God means that the assets of the saints were used to meet the needs of the congregation so that each need was met by the grace of God.

7. **Need**. We rejoice today because the early church distributed funds to each saint according to their need.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the needs in the congregation.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by providing funds to Godly leaders who will distribute those funds as the saints have need.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by using our resources so that the needs of the saints are met by the gracious giving of other saints.**

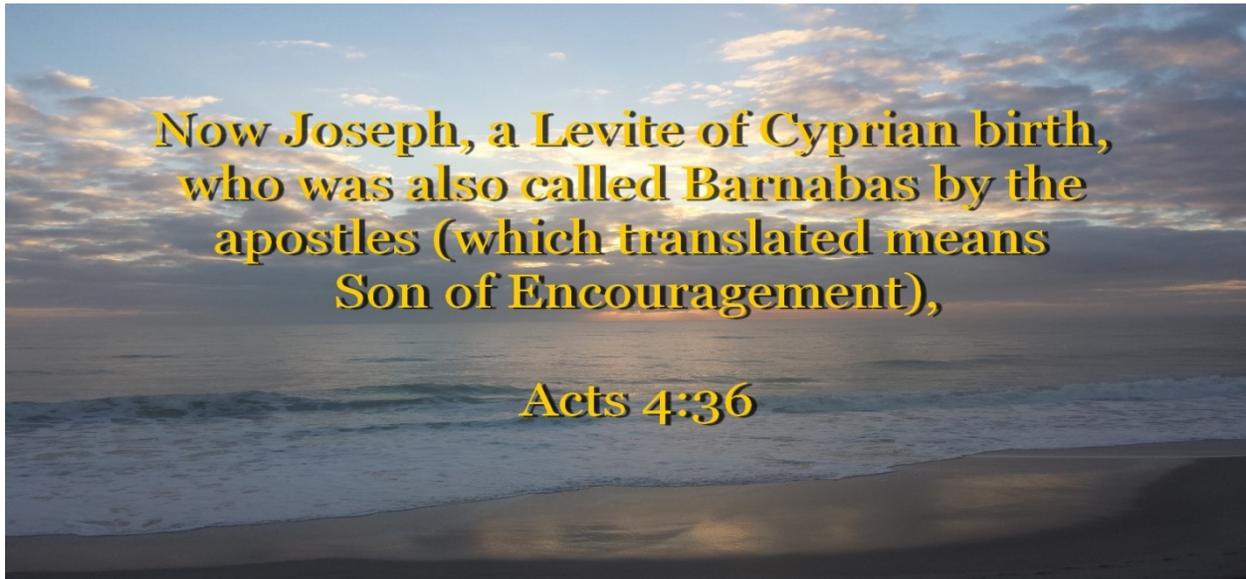
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the needs of the saints as we use our assets to the glory of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by providing funds to the local assembly to meet the needs of the congregation?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 135

Barnabas Today



Who was Joseph the Cyprian? Joseph the Cyprian was better known in the New Testament as Barnabas.

At Pentecost, people from all over the Roman Empire were present in Jerusalem. Joseph came from Cyprus, a large island in the Mediterranean. The apostles gave Joseph the Cyprian a nickname, just like Jesus gave a nickname to some of His disciples.

Like Jesus, they did not choose those names at random. Barnabas is a fine Aramaic name to describe the son of encouragement. As you read through the New Testament, and particularly the Book of Acts, Barnabas plays a key role in the life of Saul of Tarsus, better known as Paul the apostle.

Barnabas first appears in the text right here. He is in Jerusalem with the early church doing good work. The life of Barnabas demonstrates how one man can be used of God and filled with the Holy Spirit to promote the ministry of other people. Barnabas reached out to people and overcame fears and prejudices in others to start wonderful relationships for ministry.

Barnabas will travel in the New Testament away from Jerusalem, although he was well known to the apostles in Jerusalem. They considered Barnabas a man they could rely upon to lift people up and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. They found Barnabas to be a trustworthy messenger.

Son of Encouragement

1. **Joseph**. Where did Joseph come from? Joseph came from the island of Cyprus.

2. **Levite**. Joseph was a Levite by birth, the tribe of priests.

3. **Cyprian**. As a Jew from Cyprus, Joseph was familiar with other cultures and travels.

4. **Called**. The apostles nicknamed Joseph and then called him Barnabas.

5. **Barnabas**. The apostles gave Joseph the Cyprian an Aramaic name meaning son of encouragement.

6. **Apostles**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Barnabas by the name the apostles gave him because of the wonderful things he did in the early church.

7. **Son of Encouragement**. We rejoice today because as the son of encouragement, Barnabas not only was known to the apostles, but they so appreciated his ministry that they named him as a reflection of his work among the saints.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Barnabas, the son of encouragement.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by looking at people as something more than a name.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by looking for ways to encourage one another.**

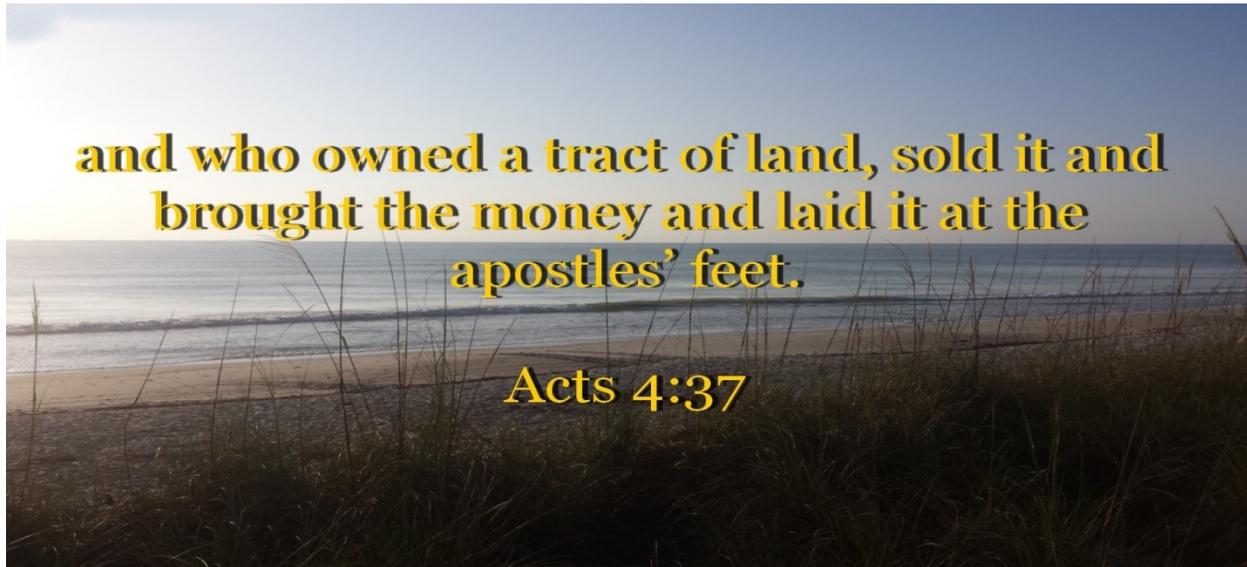
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by encouraging people like Barnabas encouraged the saints. Will you live holy in the family of God today by using your time and talents and assets to encourage the saints to love God more?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 136

Sold Today



What was Barnabas like? Barnabas owned a tract of land and sold it and laid the proceeds of the sale at the feet of the apostles.

The early church sold houses and land to provide for the needs of the congregation. The apostles were in charge of distributing the funds to meet those needs.

The congregation lived with a sense of awe with all the great things God was doing through the apostles. The congregation took meals together from home to home and also gathered together.

The congregation spent time in the apostles' teaching, and fellowship and breaking of bread. They witnessed signs and wonders. Thousands of people were saved and Jerusalem was changing.

The large change in Jerusalem caught the attention of the religious council. They arrested Peter and John for healing a lame man in the Name of Jesus. The lame man was well known to everybody because he begged alms at the Beautiful Gate. One day, he leapt up and walked into the Temple with Peter and John and everyone knew that God had performed a miracle.

Having threatened and warned Peter and John, the religious council released them with a command that they no longer preach or teach in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth. They declared that they would continue teaching and preaching Jesus and His mighty resurrection.

Money

1. **Owned**. How did the saints view property ownership? In the early church, the saints sold their property and brought the proceeds to the apostles.
2. **Sold**. The saints often sold property to meet the needs of the other saints.
3. **Brought**. They brought the proceeds of the sale to the apostles so they could be distributed to other saints in need.
4. **Money**. The saints turned their property into money.
5. **Laid**. Then they took that money and brought it to the apostles because they could wisely distribute the funds.
6. **Apostles'**. Living holy in the family of God means that the early church understood that all assets should be distributed wisely as needs arose.
7. **Feet**. We rejoice today because saints laid money at the feet of the apostles because they wanted to meet the needs of other saints.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by selling property as needs arise to use the proceeds of sale to benefit other saints.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by submitting all of our assets to God's control.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by sharing all we have to meet the needs of others.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding that God uses the things He has given to us to help others in need. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God with all the things He has given to you?

HALLELUJAH !

13

Ananias and Sapphira Today

The saints in Jerusalem held all their property in common. They were using their assets to provide for anyone in need. A man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. They kept back some of the proceeds for themselves, having agreed upon that action. They brought a portion of the proceeds of sale to the apostles and laid it at their feet.

Peter immediately asked Ananias why Satan had filled his heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back some of the price of the land. Peter said further that while it was in sold, did it not remain your property? And after it was sold was not, was it not under your control? Why did you conceive this plan and lie not to men, but to God? Hearing those words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last. Great fear came over everyone who heard. The young men covered him up, took him away to burial.

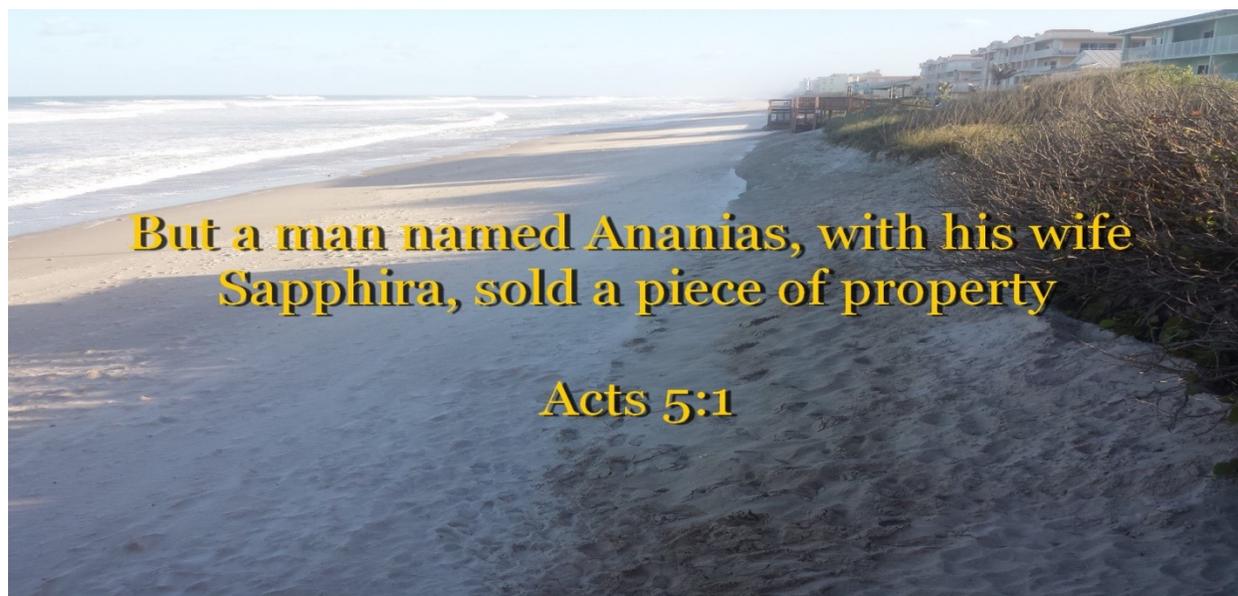
After about three hours, Sapphira came in to the apostles. She did not know what happened with Ananias. Peter asked her if they sold the land for a certain price. She agreed. Peter then asked her why you agreed with your husband to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test. Peter then said that the feet of those who buried your husband were at the door and they will carry you

out as well. Immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last. The young men came in and found her dead. They carried her out and buried her beside her husband. Great fear came upon the whole church and everyone who heard of these things.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 137

Ananias Today



Who was Ananias? Ananias was married to Sapphira and they owned some property.

After Barnabas sold his property, he followed the general pattern of taking the proceeds from the sale and giving it to the apostles. The apostles used the proceeds of the sale to meet the needs of the congregation numbering in the thousands. Because of the grace of God moving saints to sell their property and use the proceeds for the Lord's work, the saints of the congregation had no unmet needs.

God was doing many amazing things during that period. The saints had all things in common and continued in the apostles' doctrine. They met together and they met from house to house breaking bread and eating meals together and praying together and fellowshiping together. They were of one mind.

God was working signs and wonders through the apostles. Thousands of people were coming to Christ the Savior. The religious authorities tried to

squelch all talk and testimony about Jesus and His resurrection. They began by arresting Peter and John, but released them because they had no basis to punish them and the entire crowd in Jerusalem knew about the miracle work through their hands. The Holy Spirit was very active in Jerusalem.

Sold

1. **Man**. Who was the man Ananias? Ananias distinguished himself in death, for the wrong reasons.
2. **Ananias**. Ananias died for lying.
3. **Wife**. Ananias was married to Sapphira.
4. **Sapphira**. Ananias and Sapphira owned property together.
5. **Sold**. They sold a piece of property and devised a scheme based on a lie.
6. **Piece**. Living holy in the family of God means that we keep in mind that God owns all the property He gave to us.
7. **Property**. We rejoice today because God gives us property to use for His glory.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by treating all property as a gift from God for His use.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that all property belongs to God and we are but stewards of it.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving God for giving us things to use for the benefit of other saints.**

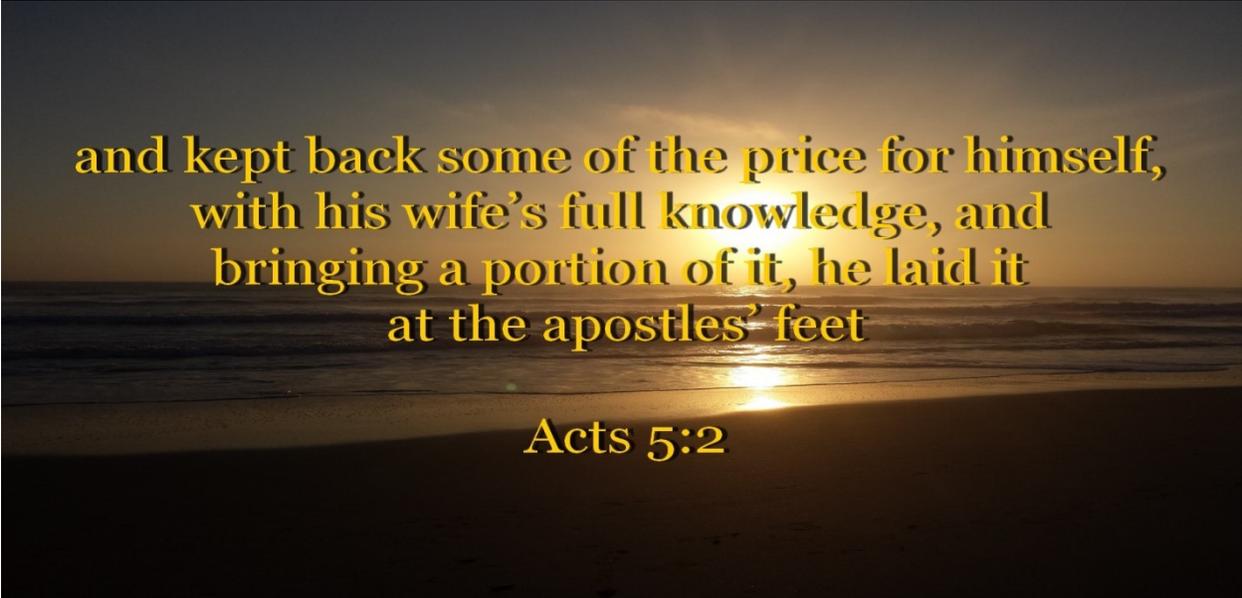
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering we are only stewards of the assets God has delivered to us to use for His glory. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to use His assets for His glory?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 138

Kept Back Today



and kept back some of the price for himself,
with his wife's full knowledge, and
bringing a portion of it, he laid it
at the apostles' feet

Acts 5:2

What did Ananias do with the proceeds of the sale of his property? He gave some of the money to the apostles, but kept back some for himself and his wife.

Ananias acted with the full knowledge of his wife Sapphira. They apparently had talked things over before they brought the money to the apostles' feet. So often when people conspire to do evil, they take other people down with them. Even husbands and wives can conspire to lie and misrepresent.

Because so many of the saints treated their personal assets as community property, people may have felt some pressure to do likewise. Therefore, if someone sold a piece of property, they may have felt pressure to take the proceeds of the sale and give it to the apostles.

Ananias and Sapphira should have realized that the Holy Spirit was working to unify the congregation. The Holy Spirit builds unity based upon the truth and righteousness. Playing any type of games with the Holy Spirit and the apostles would disrupt the unity of the congregation. Such an attack

upon the unity would be asking for very serious spiritual trouble with immediate consequences. Lying to God is never a good idea.

Full Knowledge

1. **Kept**. What did Ananias and Sapphira scheme to do? They schemed together to hold back some of the proceeds of a sale and lie about it.

2. **Price**. Ananias and Sapphira sold a piece of property and then held back some of the purchase price for their own use and lied about it.

3. **Himself**. Ananias apparently devised the scheme to hold back money.

4. **Wife's**. Sapphira was not the innocent spouse who knew nothing about the scheme.

5. **Knowledge**. Sapphira knew about the scheme and did not object.

6. **Laid**. Living holy in the family of God means that we never lie about holiness and honesty. Ananias laid some of the proceeds of the sale before the apostles' feet, but claimed they had brought all of it.

7. **Feet**. We rejoice today because God loves honesty and righteousness. He loved for people to sell assets and lay them before the feet of the apostles for their wise distribution to meet the needs of the saints.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God loves honesty and righteousness and hates lying.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that our lies conflict with God's holiness.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that God is a holy God that demands we be holy before Him at all times.**

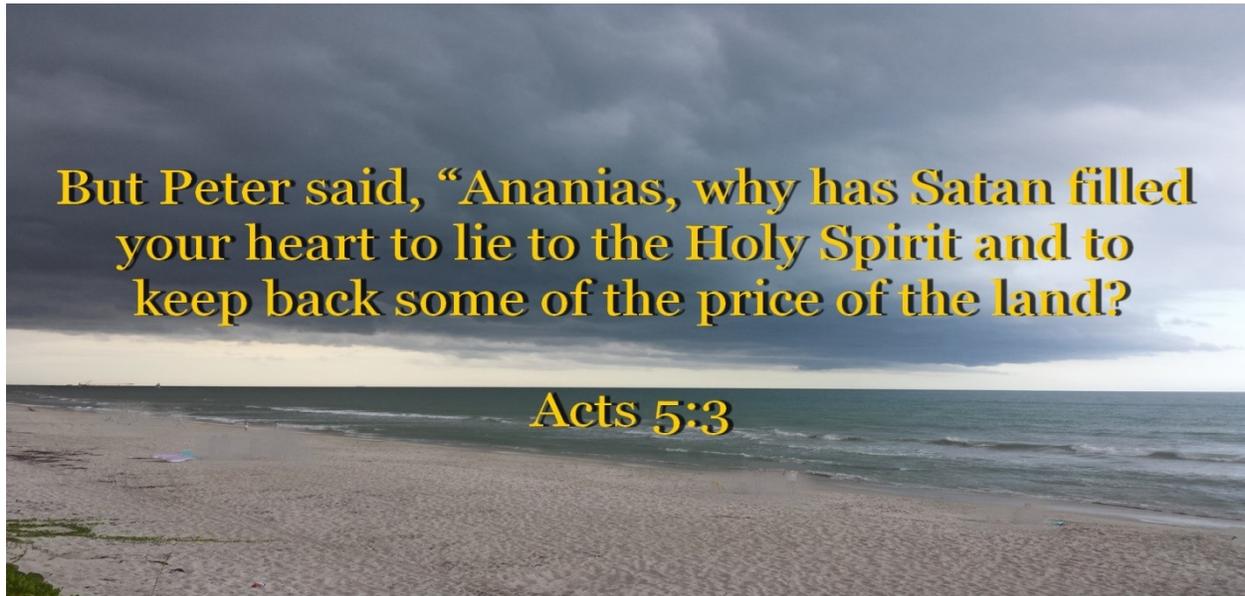
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by telling the truth and never scheming to lie to God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that God knows every lie?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 139

Satan Today



What did Peter ask Ananias about Satan? Peter asked Ananias why Satan had filled his heart.

Peter's words must have shaken Ananias to the core. Peter knew exactly what had happened with Ananias and Sapphira. He displayed that knowledge by his question to Ananias.

Ananias and Sapphira conspired to hold back some of the money from the proceeds of the sale of their property. They thought that giving some would be great and they could hold back the other part for their own personal use.

Peter did some spiritual anatomy with the heart of Ananias. Peter indicated that Satan had filled the heart of Ananias. Satan attacked the early church and the apostles through many different ways. He used the religious Council to try to silence Peter and John and the other apostles by commanding them not to speak or teach in the Name of Jesus Christ. Peter and John refused to be intimidated and declared that they would continue to

preach and teach in the Name of Jesus Christ because they were unable to do otherwise.

Satan also attacked the unity of the early church by convincing Ananias and Sapphira to hold back some of the proceeds of the sale of a piece of property. That attack by Satan met a swift response from the Holy Spirit.

Lie

1. **Peter**. Peter understood the scheme of Ananias and Sapphira.
2. **Ananias**. Peter confronted Ananias directly regarding the scheme.
3. **Why**. Peter started with a ‘why’ question about the motives for misleading the apostles.
4. **satan**. Peter knew that Ananias was influenced in his heart by satan and exposed the same with his question.
5. **Lie**. Ananias lied about the proceeds of the sale and thought no one would know about it.
6. **Holy Spirit**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Holy Spirit hears every word we say and knows every thought we have. Lying to the Holy Spirit never produces the results we seek.
7. **Price**. We rejoice today because God loves for the saints to use their wealth to help other saints in need; the Holy Spirit hates lies and pretense.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by counting upon the Holy Spirit to listen to everything we say or think.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that lying to the Holy Spirit may bring serious consequences.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for His holiness and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives promoting personal holiness.**

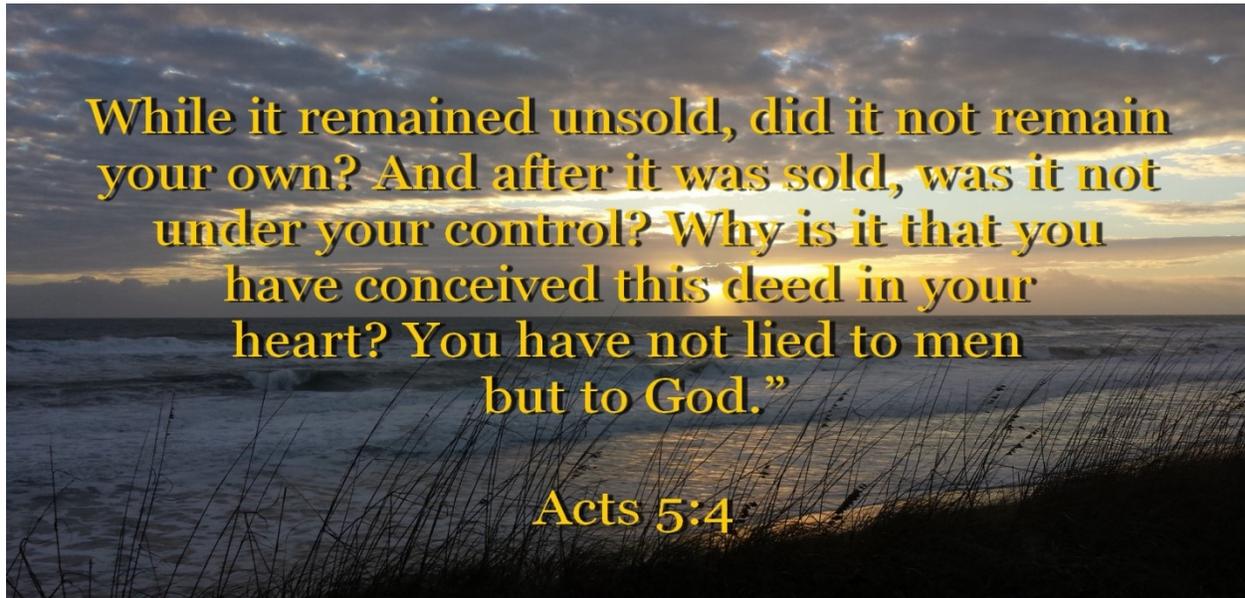
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the Holy Spirit teaching us personal holiness. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that the Holy Spirit listens to all we say and think?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 140

Control Today



Were Ananias and Sapphira compelled to sell their property and donate all the proceeds to the apostles? No, Peter told him they were under no such obligation.

The early church held the property they had in common. They also sold property to meet the needs of saints, so that no one lacked anything. You may jump to the conclusion that God required everyone to sell their property and use every penny to support the saints.

Based upon the questions from Peter to Ananias, we know several things about the private ownership of property. First, we know that people were not required to sell their privately owned property. Second, if saints sold property, saints could do what they wanted with the proceeds of sale; they were not required to donate the money to the apostles. Third, problems arise when you lie about the disposition of the proceeds from sale.

Ananias appeared before Peter and faced a series of penetrating questions. Peter exposed the scheme to hide some of the proceeds of sale and keep it back for personal use. Up to that point, Ananias had not sinned. The

problem arose that Ananias and Sapphira had joined together, led by satan (the father of liars) filling their heart, to lie to the Holy Spirit. Ananias lied about holding some money back for personal use.

Heart

1. **Unsold**. Did the early church require people to sell all their property? No, they were under no command to sell their property.

2. **Own**. The early church recognized the private ownership of property.

3. **Sold**. The early church understood that property owners could buy and sell property at their pleasure.

4. **Control**. The early church recognized that property owners controlled the proceeds of sale and were under no command to deliver all the proceeds of sale to the apostles.

5. **Conceived**. Ananias sinned by lying to the Holy Spirit, according to the plan Ananias conceived in his heart.

6. **Heart**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Holy Spirit always knows our hearts and we should be careful about satan working in our hearts.

7. **Lied**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit knew that Ananias lied about the money and took righteous action to set an example for the church to remember.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the ministry of the Holy Spirit putting an end to lying schemes.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by being very careful about the activity of satan in our hearts.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by refusing to lie to the Holy Spirit and others about our personal piety.**

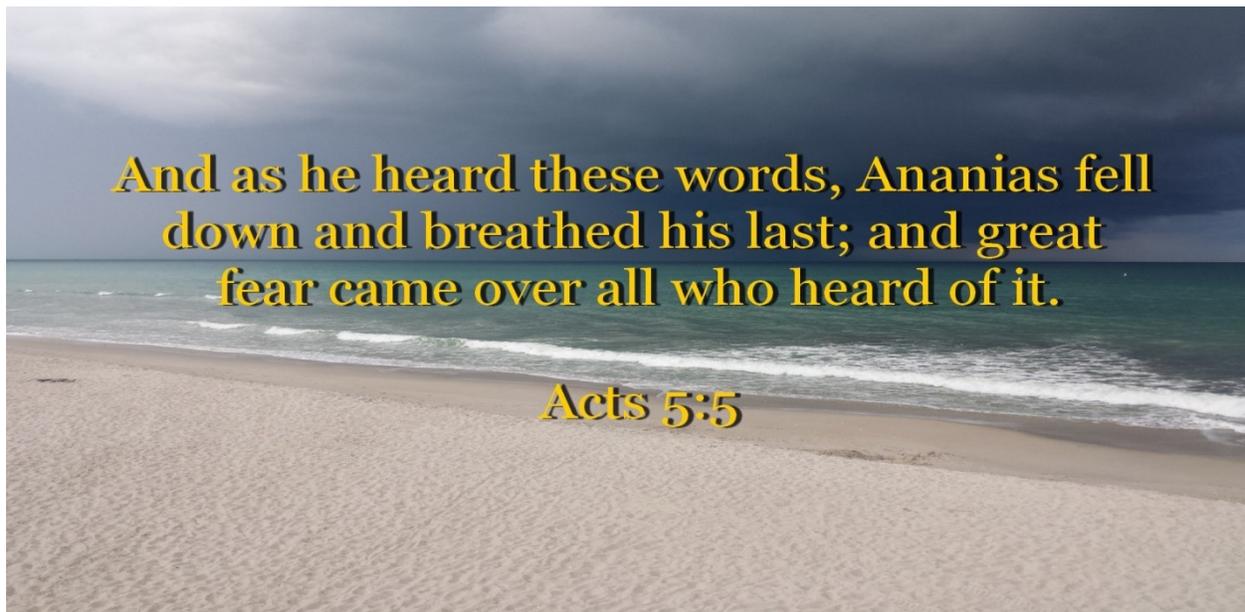
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that the Holy Spirit hates lying, especially lying that affects other believers and the health of the church. Will you live holy in the family of God today by being careful about spreading lies about your personal piety?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 141

Heard Today



What happened to Ananias when he heard the words of Peter? Ananias fell down and breathed his last.

Peter knew what Ananias and Sapphira had planned regarding the proceeds of the sale of their property. They planned together to hold back part of the proceeds for their own use and then lie about it to the apostles.

The saints in Jerusalem were selling their property and using the funds to support the needs of other saints in the congregation. Upon sale, they would take the proceeds and lay them at the feet of the apostles.

Peter explained that Ananias and Sapphira were not under any command to sell their property. Likewise, they were under no command to bring any proceeds of the sale to the apostles.

The Holy Spirit had worked to produce unity in the congregation of saints in Jerusalem. The saints remained in awe of the work God was doing. The Holy Spirit produced holiness among the saints in the early church. The saints were freely sharing resources and supplying the needs of each other.

Ananias and Sapphira pretended great holiness and devotion to Christ by claiming to have presented all the proceeds of sale from their property. In fact, they held some of the proceeds back for their own use. By doing so, they were lying to the Holy Spirit. Peter confronted Ananias with his lies.

Fear

1. **He**. How did Ananias react when he heard the words of Peter? Ananias fell down before Peter.

2. **Heard**. When Ananias heard that Peter knew everything Ananias had done with Sapphira, Ananias knew that his secret was out.

4. **Ananias**. Ananias conspired to lie about the sum of money received from the sale of the property.

5. **Breathed**. When Peter confronted Ananias, he breathed his last and fell down dead.

6. **Fear**. Living holy in the family of God means that great fear came over all who heard of the death of Ananias.

7. **Heard**. We rejoice today because news of lying to the Holy Spirit caused everyone who heard the story of Ananias to have great fear of repeating the sin of Ananias.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the sin of Ananias in lying to the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the great fear that came upon everyone who heard what happened to Ananias.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by never lying to the Holy Spirit.**

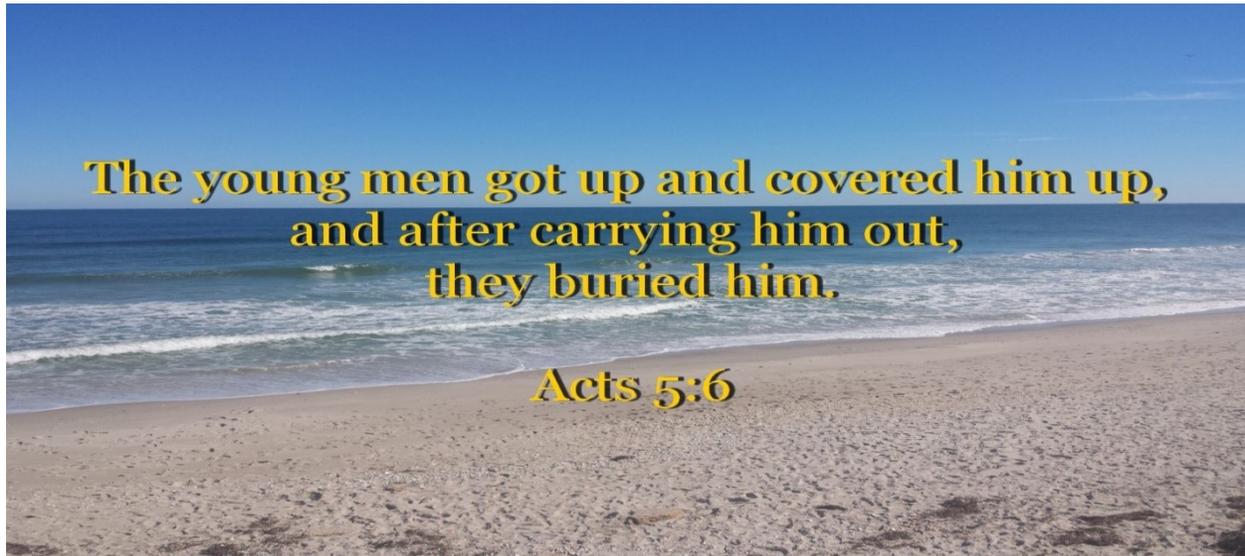
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering what happened to Ananias who lied to the Holy Spirit. Will you live holy in the family of God today by never lying to the Holy Spirit?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 142

Young Men Today



What happened to the body of Ananias? The young men buried him.

Ananias serves as an example of what happens when you lie to the Holy Spirit. Ananias and Sapphira created a scheme for holding back some funds from the sale of property for their own selfish reasons, but pretended to give all the sale money to the apostles. Many people in the congregation had already sold their property and given all the proceeds of sale to the apostles. Ananias and Sapphira thought they could give some of the proceeds while holding back the rest of the proceeds and everyone would think they had done something completely wonderful, just like everyone else.

Ananias and Sapphira did not appreciate the power of the Holy Spirit as omniscient God. Omniscience means that God knows everything. Omniscience means that God knows when you are lying and hiding and scheming. Ananias and Sapphira may have deceived some humans, but God cannot be deceived because He knows all things. Some people even try to deceive God, but you can never pull a fast one successfully on God.

Satan played a leading role in the scheme of Ananias and Sapphira. The devil, the father of liars, worked in the heart of Ananias to lie to the Holy

Spirit. Because the Holy Spirit is a Person like God the Father and God the Son, He can be lied to. Such lies can bring terrible consequences for the liars.

Buried

1. **Young**. What did the young men do? They disposed of the body of Ananias.

2. **Got Up**. When Ananias suddenly died, the young men got up and took care of his body.

3. **Covered**. The young men first covered his body.

4. **Carrying**. Then they continued the process of carrying out his body.

5. **Out**. They took his body out for burial.

6. **Buried**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Ananias was buried shortly after he lied to the Holy Spirit.

7. **Him**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit remains kind and gracious in all things, but when Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit, they young men carried him out and buried him shortly after he died.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the young men carrying Ananias out for burial.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God may impose the immediate death penalty upon people for some sins, such as lying to the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the young men who buried Ananias after he lied to the Holy Spirit.**

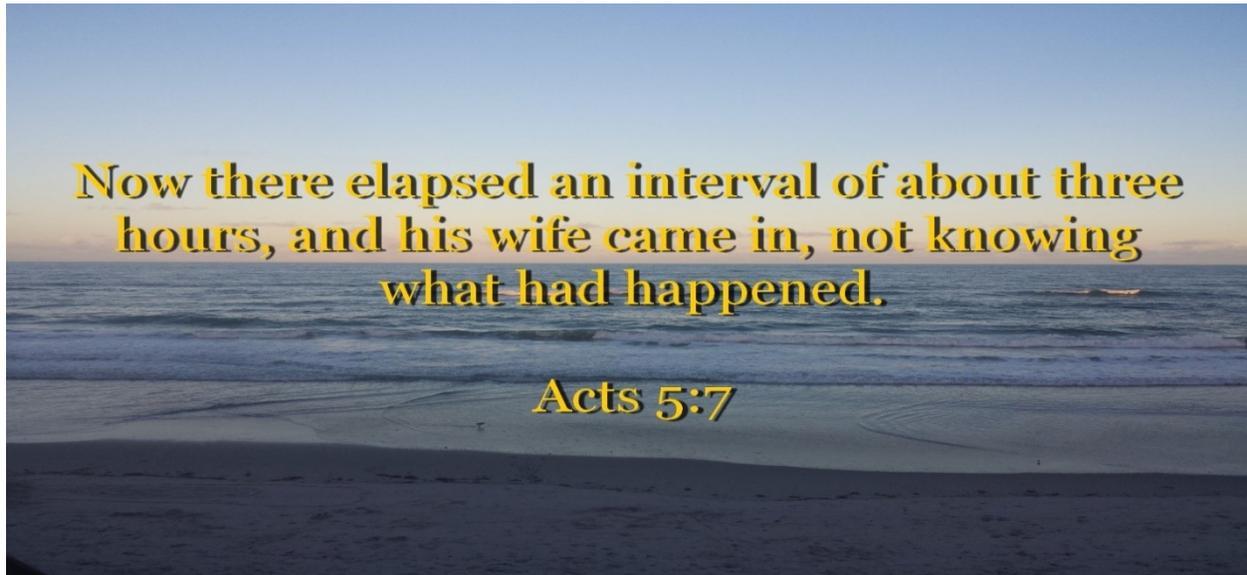
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Ananias and avoiding the sin of lying to the Holy Spirit. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the young men carrying Ananias out for burial after lying to the Holy Spirit?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 143

Elapsed Today



What happened after Ananias died? About three hours later Sapphira came in to see Peter.

Peter confronted Ananias about his scheme to hold back some of the proceeds of the sale of property and then to lie about delivering all the proceeds to the apostles. Peter declared that Ananias had lied to the Holy Spirit. Ananias heard the words and fell down dead. Young men came and took his body away. Peter knew that Ananias had conspired with Sapphira to hold back the money and to lie to the apostles.

People have a tendency to lie and to follow the father of lies, the devil. Ananias and Sapphira lied to the apostles about the money from the sale, but they did not comprehend the penalty for lying to the Holy Spirit under the circumstances. Ananias and Sapphira committed willful sin by lying about the proceeds and threatened to establish a pattern of lying among the congregation.

The Holy Spirit leads people in all truth. People lie when they do not tell the truth. The Holy Spirit takes lies very seriously, especially when the

pernicious effect of those lies may spread through an entire congregation. Ananias and Sapphira conspired together to lie to the apostles and they lied to the Holy Spirit as well.

Not Knowing

1. **Elapsed**. What happened to Sapphira, the wife of Ananias? She came in to see Peter after three hours elapsed.
2. **Hours**. Three hours after Ananias came to see Peter, Sapphira came in.
3. **Wife**. Sapphira, the wife of Ananias, came in to see Peter. She had conspired with Ananias to lie about the proceeds of the sale.
4. **Came**. She came in just like her husband came in and told the same lies.
5. **Not**. Sapphira had planned to say the same thing as her husband, but she did not know what happened to him.
6. **Knowing**. Living holy in the family of God means that knowing you are lying can lead to knowing that the Holy Spirit can impose the death penalty upon lying to Him.
7. **Happened**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit promoted holiness and truthfulness in the early church. Sapphira lied to Peter and the Holy Spirit, not knowing what happened to Ananias.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by never lying to the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by never conspiring with others to lie to the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit, not knowing what happened three hours earlier to her husband for doing the same thing.**

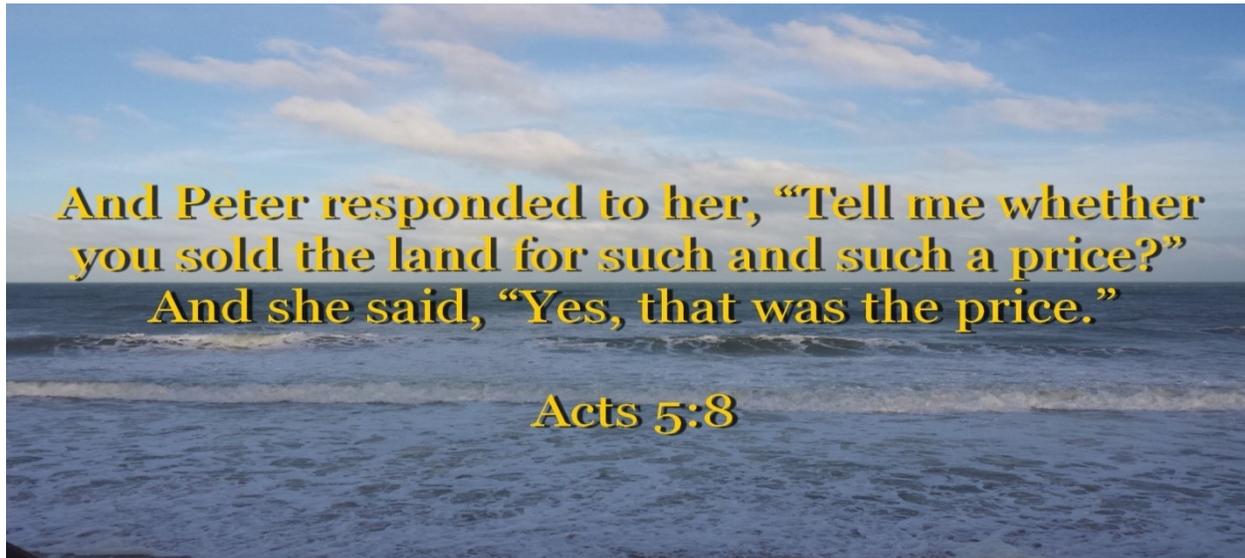
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit without knowing what happened to her husband for doing the same thing. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering what happened to Ananias and Sapphira?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 144

Responded Today



How did Peter respond to Sapphira? Peter asked questions of Sapphira knowing the answers before he asked.

Peter specifically questioned Sapphira about the price of the land that they sold. She responded that that was the price. Peter had already heard from Ananias about the true price. Sapphira unwittingly acknowledged that she conspired with her husband to hide the true price. The devil had influenced Sapphira to lie about the price.

Sapphira was digging her grave literally with her words. The Holy Spirit loves grace and mercy, but He also loves the truth. The saints in Jerusalem were selling their property and freely using the proceeds to meet the needs of other saints. The Holy Spirit intended to work in the congregation to produce a loving and wonderful spirit. Ananias and Sapphira distinguished themselves as liars and schemers who thought they could pull a fast one on God.

Ananias and Sapphira stand as examples of lying to the Holy Spirit. When people put their own greed before their relationship to God, they face serious spiritual consequences. If everyone who has ever lied to the Holy

Spirit died on the spot, would anyone be alive today? The Holy Spirit had a special purpose in preserving the loving atmosphere in the early church unmarred by petty greed and serious hypocrisy. Ananias and Sapphira, under the influence of the devil, introduced an evil practice into the early church which the Holy Spirit would not tolerate for even a moment.

The Price

1. **Peter**. What did Peter say to Sapphira? Peter asked Sapphira a question about the selling price of the land.
2. **Responded**. Peter responded to Sapphira with a question about whether Sapphira and Ananias had sold the property for a particular price.
3. **Tell**. Peter asked her to tell him the price.
4. **Sold**. The amount the property sold for made a big difference here.
5. **Price**. Peter asked Sapphira to confirm the specific price and she did.
6. **Yes**. Living holy in the family of God means that Peter already knew that plan of Ananias and Sapphira to lie about the sales price because the Holy Spirit had revealed that price to Peter.
7. **Price**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit knows all things as God, even the sale price of a particular piece of land.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by answering questions truthfully.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that agreements to lie together may lead to lying together in the soil after death.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by never making agreements with anyone to lie for each other.**

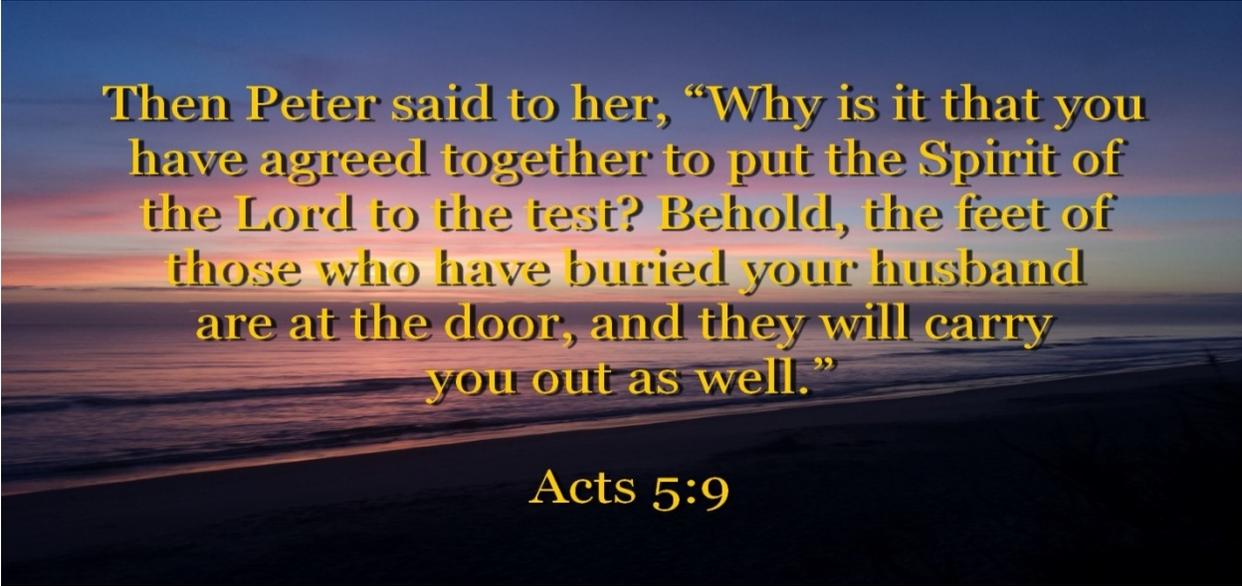
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that answering questions with lies leads to trouble. Will you live holy in the family of God today by never agreeing with others to lie for each other?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 145

Test Today



Then Peter said to her, “Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out as well.”

Acts 5:9

What did Peter say to Sapphira? Peter asked Sapphira about her plans.

Peter first asked Ananias about the sale of the property. Ananias said that he had turned over all the money and held nothing back. Peter told Sapphira that she had agreed to put the Holy Spirit to the test. Putting the Holy Spirit to the test is similar to when the devil put Jesus to the test by telling Jesus to throw Himself down and rely upon God to keep Him from being dashed upon the stones. Jesus quoted Scripture and did not jump, citing the passage that man should not put God to the test.

Peter explained that Ananias and Sapphira had not learned anything from the example of Jesus because they tested the Holy Spirit, Who is God just like Jesus. Ananias and Sapphira sought to test the omniscience of God. In fact, God knows all things and knew exactly what Ananias and Sapphira had done in secret. Their lies about the proceeds were exposed for all to see.

The lies and hypocrisy of Ananias and Sapphira caused their very public deaths. They tested the Holy Spirit and saw His power and people

knew of His omniscience. When they fell down dead, the saints learned never to lie to the Holy Spirit, because He knows all things and loves the truth.

Carry

1. **Peter**. How did Peter confront Sapphira? Peter asked her why she agreed with Ananias to test the Holy Spirit.
2. **Why**. Peter asked a why question looking for a reason behind her actions.
3. **Agreed**. Sapphira agreed with her husband Ananias to test the Holy Spirit.
4. **Spirit**. Ananias and Sapphira agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test.
5. **Test**. Satan tries to get saints to test God in a variety of ways, with all of them sinful.
6. **Buried**. Living holy in the family of God means that the feet of those people who buried Ananias were at the door to carry out Sapphira as well.
7. **Carry**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit brings joy, peace and happiness to every saint walking in the Holy Spirit. Because God is jealous, the Holy Spirit opposes people who seek to test Him by lying to Him. Some people who lie to the Holy Spirit will be carried out by the same people who carried out another liar.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by never testing the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Sapphira, like her husband Ananias, was carried out by the same people who carried out Ananias.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding the holiness of God means that saints should never test the Holy Spirit with lies because of the grave consequences of lying to the Holy Spirit.**

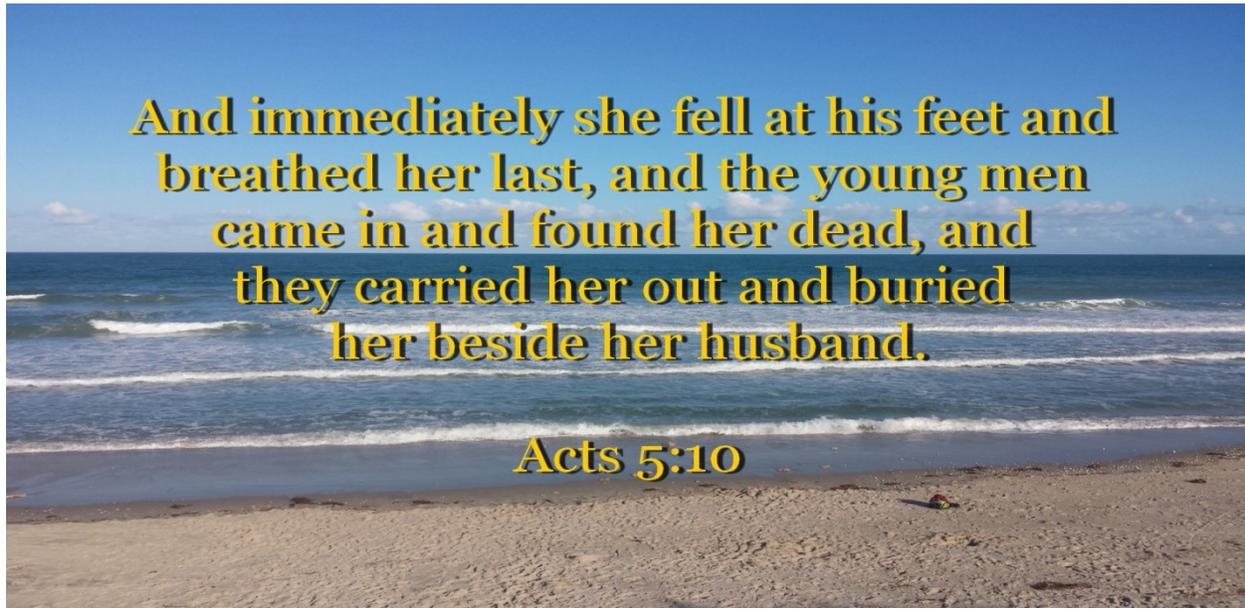
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Sapphira and her immediate death. Will you live holy in the family of God today by never testing God with lies about what really happened?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 146

Dead Today



What happened to Sapphira? After Peter confronted her, she breathed her last.

Ananias and Sapphira devised a scheme to hold back some of the money from the proceeds of sale, but to tell the apostles they were donating the full price of the sale. Peter confronted both Ananias and Sapphira, separately, about their lies. Ananias came in first, Peter confronted him, and Ananias died on the spot. Three hours later Sapphira came in, Peter confronted her, and she died on the spot.

Peter confronted Sapphira about the amount the property sold for. Sapphira lied to him and suffered the immediate consequence of death. She fell at Peter's feet and breathed her last. The young men came in and found her dead and they carried her out. They buried her beside her husband.

The Holy Spirit greatly blessed the congregation of Jerusalem. They were growing in numbers by the thousands. The Gospel of Jesus Christ was moving forward quickly through the city, proclaimed by the apostles and others. The religious leaders were rising up in opposition and commanded

them to stop preaching and teaching in the Name of Jesus. The Holy Spirit, however, would not tolerate anyone lying to Him.

Buried

1 **Immediately**. How long did it take for Sapphira to fall down? She fell down immediately after Peter asked her why she agreed with Ananias to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test.

2. **Fell**. As soon as Peter told her that the young men who buried her husband were at the door, she fell down at his feet.

3. **Breathed**. Sapphira breathed her last immediately after Peter confronted her about testing the Spirit of the Lord.

4. **Young**. The young men came in and found her dead, lying at the feet of Peter.

5. **Carried**. The young men then carried her out.

6. **Buried**. Living holy in the family of God means that we should never put the Spirit of the Lord to the test. When Sapphira put the Spirit of the Lord to the test, she died and was buried beside her husband.

7. **Husband**. We rejoice today because the Spirit of the Lord fills us and helps us every day. Even so, we should never put the Spirit of the Lord to the test. Sapphira and Ananias put the Spirit of the Lord to the test by holding back some money, but claiming they had delivered all the money to the apostles. Both husband and wife died on the same day and were buried near each other.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by never putting the Spirit of the Lord to the test.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Ananias and Sapphira put the Spirit of the Lord to the test.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that putting the Spirit of the Lord to the test may result in immediate death.**

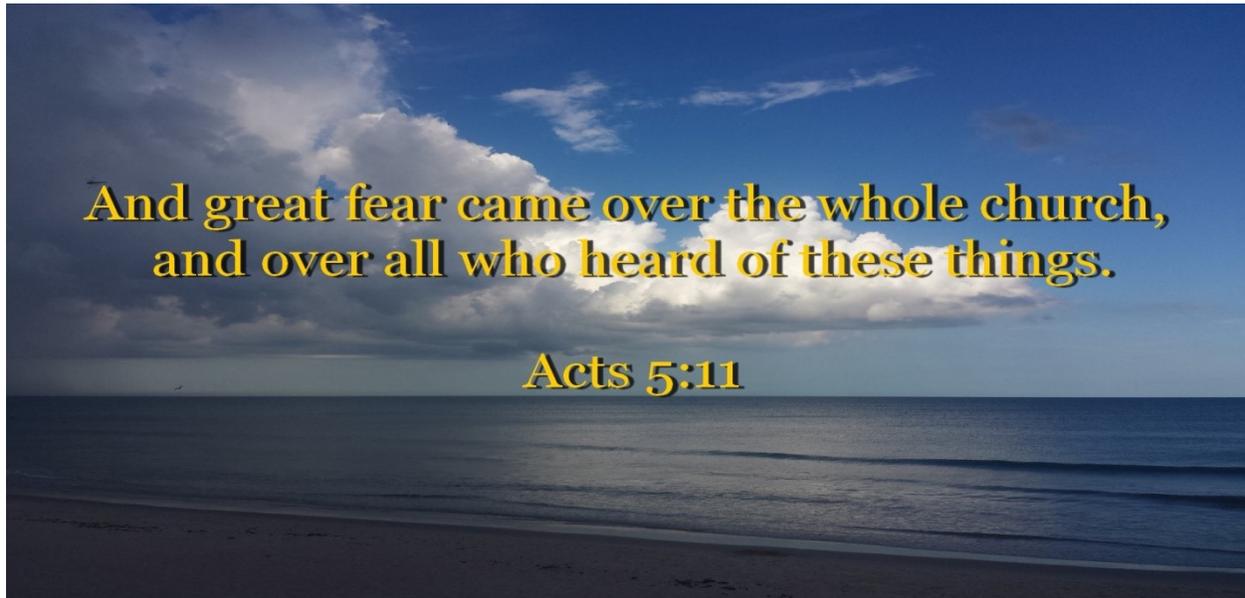
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by never testing the Spirit of the Lord. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life today, knowing better than to test Him?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 147

Fear Today



After Ananias and Sapphira died, what happened next? Great fear came over the whole church.

The death of Ananias and Sapphira gripped the church with fear. Great fear came over the whole church and over all who heard of these things. The news about Ananias and Sapphira caused everyone to think carefully about what they were doing. Saints knew that lying to the Holy Spirit brought immediate consequences.

The fear of the Holy Spirit unified the church. The Holy Spirit knew exactly what would happen after He struck down Ananias and Sapphira for lying to Him. God the Holy Spirit promoted unity and love within the body of Christ.

The saints continued in fellowship and shared their property and assets freely with one another. Things were good in the early church and the Holy Spirit ensured that disruptive people would not be a blight on the church. People knew that what happened to Ananias and Sapphira may happen to them. Pretending holiness by lying about money would never be acceptable

to the apostles or the Holy Spirit. People knew that the apostles had supernatural knowledge about what people were actually doing and took appropriate action.

Church

1. **Great**. How did the congregation react to the news about Ananias and Sapphira? Great fear fell upon the congregation.

2. **Fear**. Hearing the people who lie to the Holy Spirit and put the Spirit of the Lord to the test brought fear of similar consequences to all the congregation.

3. **Whole**. The whole church had learned an important spiritual lesson taught by the Holy Spirit: do not lie to the Holy Spirit and do not test the Holy Spirit.

4. **Church**. The Jerusalem church consisted of saints, people who had received the free gift of eternal life from Jesus.

5. **All**. The news about the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira had the exact consequence that the Holy Spirit intended. The news spread quickly and with powerful effect.

6. **Heard**. Living holy in the family of God means that people heard about the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira and great fear came upon all of them.

7. **Things**. We rejoice today because God loves us every day. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to encourage us, comfort us, and fill us with His continual presence. When people heard about the things concerning Ananias and Sapphira, they learned about new things concerning the holiness and power of the Holy Spirit.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding we must work out our salvation with fear and trembling.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that everyone who heard about Ananias and Sapphira were filled with great fear.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by never lying to the Holy Spirit or testing the Spirit of the Lord and expecting that God will not care about such things.**

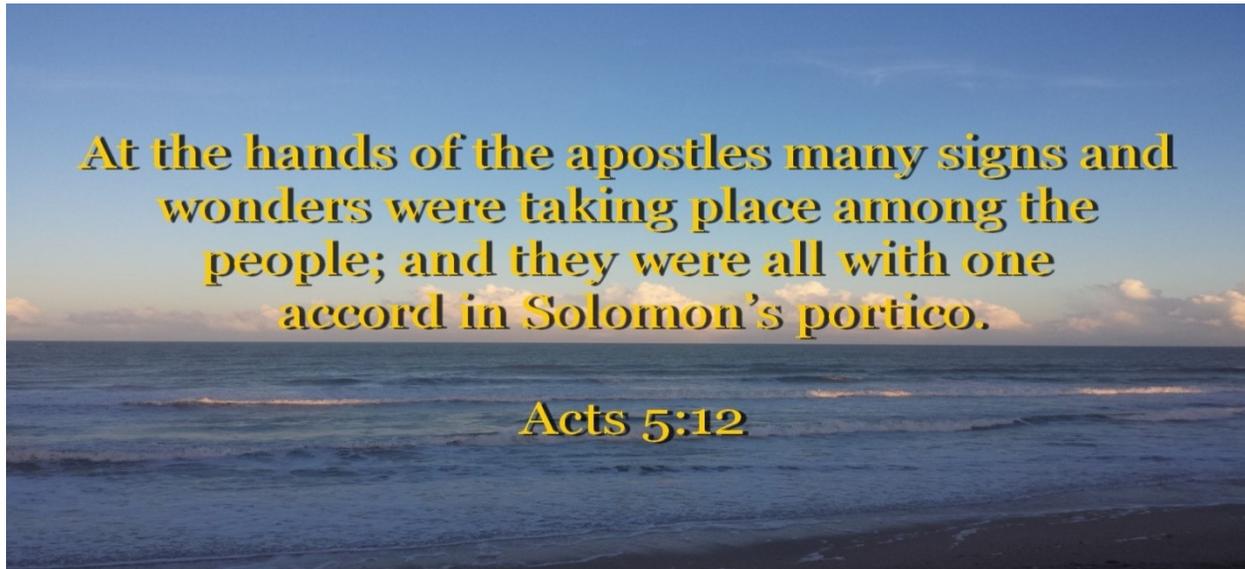
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by never testing the Spirit of the Lord. Will you live holy in the family of God today by learning the lessons the Holy Spirit taught through the experiences of Ananias and Sapphira?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 148

Signs and Wonders Today



Where did the saints meet together? They met in the portico of Solomon.

The portico of Solomon was a covered walkway associated with the Temple. Of course, the Temple that Solomon built was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, hundreds of years before Jesus was born of Mary. Later, some Jews, including Ezra and Nehemiah, returned from exile and built the Temple and its walls.

As the church gathered at the portico of Solomon, the apostles were busy doing signs and wonders among them. Generally, the people did not associate with the apostles, but held them in high regard.

The Holy Spirit filled the church, composed of individual saints joined together in His bond of unity. God cleansed the church of two liars and the entire church immediately understood the consequences of lying to the Holy Spirit.

The early church gathered with one accord. They worshiped Jesus the Savior and knew Him as the resurrected Lord. His apostles continued teaching and preaching in His Name every day.

Solomon's Portico

1. **Hands**. What did God do with the hands of the apostles? God did signs and wonders through the hands of the apostles.

2. **Apostles**. Jesus chose the apostles to be His witnesses when the Holy Spirit came upon them. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles and they immediately began to bear witness to the Risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

3. **Signs**. God performed signs to confirm the divine authority of the apostles. God wanted people to know that He had chosen those men to bring the testimony about Jesus to the world, so that the world might be saved through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the only Savior of the world.

4. **Wonders**. God also performed wonders, which caused crowds to be amazed.

5. **People**. God performed signs and wonders among the people, up close and personal, using the hands of the apostles, just like Jesus performed miracles by touching people.

6. **One**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Holy Spirit unified the saints, so that they gathered together with one accord.

7. **Portico**. We rejoice today because Jesus gathered His children at the Portico of Solomon, the same place that Jesus walked in the flesh during His ministry.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the signs and wonders God performed through the hands of the apostles.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by gathering with one accord together with other believers in the Name of Jesus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by being united in the Holy Spirit with the purpose of bringing people to saving faith in Jesus, and worshiping together.**

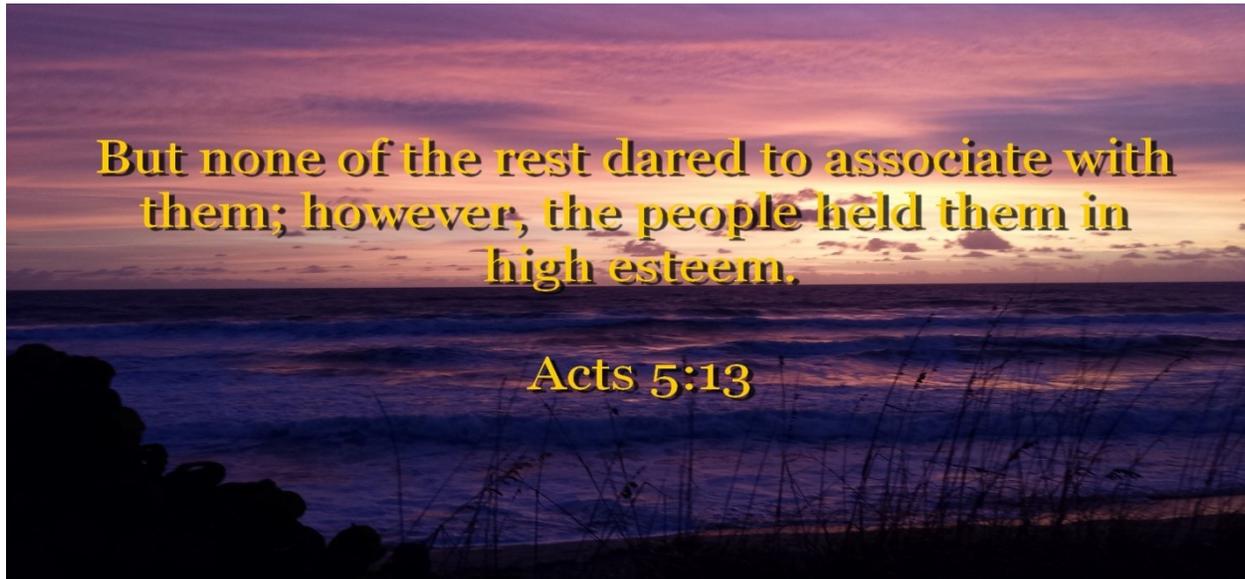
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the ministry of God performing signs and wonders through the hands of the apostles. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the work of God in the early church and uniting with other believers with one accord?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 149

Associate Today



Why did the people not associate with the apostles? When Ananias and Sapphira died, people understood that talking to Peter and the apostles was not the same as talking to anyone else.

The apostles worked signs and wonders among the saints. The power of God was manifested in many different ways. The new church was born holy and blameless.

The Holy Spirit acted to keep the church holy and blameless. Thousands of people had been saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. They turned to Him for salvation and became new creatures in Christ, filled with the Holy Spirit.

Watching the apostles manifest the power of God within them as they performed signs and wonders in the Name of the Lord Jesus, the people felt a sense of awe. They highly esteemed the apostles, but they also had a fear of God arising from the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira for lying to the Holy Spirit. Peter questioned them and they died immediately. The death penalty

was not off the table for bad conduct, particularly lying to the Holy Spirit by lying to the apostles.

Esteem

1. **None**. What happened after Ananias and Sapphira died suddenly? No one dared to associate with the apostles, because great fear had fallen on the church.

2. **Dared**. The apostles had done nothing wrong, but the saints feared God who had struck down the people who had lied to the Holy Spirit and had tested the Spirit of the Lord.

3. **Associate**. The people did not associate with the apostles, in part because they remembered that Peter knew all the undisclosed details of the sale of property by Ananias and Sapphira.

4. **However**. The saints held the apostles in high regard, even if they did not want to associate with them.

5. **People**. The news about Ananias and Sapphira spread quickly throughout the people in Jerusalem.

6. **Held**. Living holy in the family of God means that the church held the apostle in high regard, but they also experienced great fear because Ananias and Sapphira suffered instant death after speaking with Peter.

7. **High**. We rejoice today because we should always have high regard for the New Testament apostles and their writings they produced under the inspiration of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by holding the apostles in high regard for their many labors for God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God used the apostles to hand down the faith to future generations of Christians.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by continuing in the apostles' doctrine and gathering together according to the principles of New Testament leadership.**

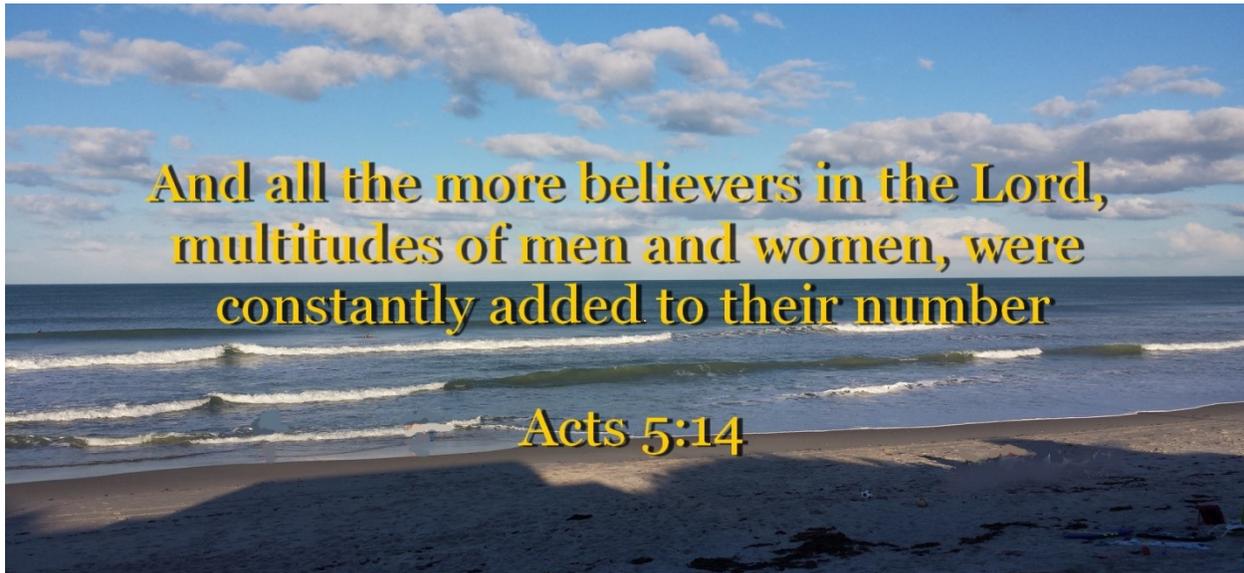
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the work of the apostles and the way the early church held them in high esteem. Will you live holy in the family of God today by reading the works of the apostles recorded in the New Testament?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 150

Believers Today



After Peter and John were arrested and released, what happened with the church? Multitudes of men and women were added to the church.

The religious authorities sought to stop the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They hoped by arresting Peter and John and commanding them to stop speaking and teaching in the Name of Jesus Christ that they would obey their order and stop speaking and teaching about Jesus. Peter and John told the Council directly that they must do what is right the sight of God and they would not stop speaking and teaching in the Name of Jesus Christ.

With the death of Ananias and Sapphira, the Holy Spirit had taken strong public steps to preserve the unity of the body of Christ and to secure its holiness before God. The news of the instant deaths of Ananias and Sapphira spread among all the saints.

In this atmosphere, the apostles continued to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit drew many people to the Lord Jesus and they believed for salvation. The conflict between the church and the religious authorities in the government continued and would grow over time. The

Gospel of Jesus Christ would be pushed out into new lands through the persecution of believers who left and took the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them, proclaiming His love wherever they went.

Constantly Added

1. **All**. Did both men and women come to the Lord? Yes, both men and women came to faith in Jesus as Savior.

2. **More**. Thousands of people had believed already, and then the Lord brought even more people to faith.

3. **Believers**. Believers, also known as saints, were born from above by faith in Jesus Christ.

4. **Lord**. They had saving faith in Jesus Christ.

5. **Added**. God added believers to the church by the thousands.

6. **Men**. Living holy in the family of God means that God loves both men and women and brought both men and women to faith so that they both became members of the body of Christ, the church.

7. **Women**. We rejoice today because women, like men, are saved by faith in Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that both men and women came to faith in Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God adds people to the church.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for all the people that God added to the church and continues to add to the church.**

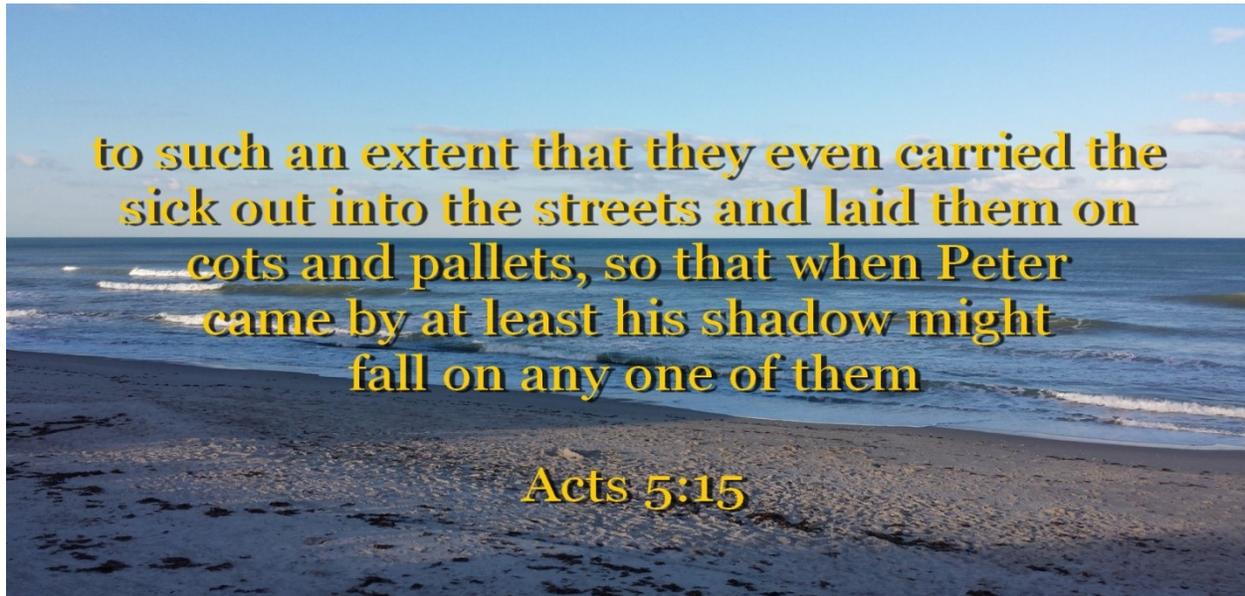
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by counting upon Jesus to build His church and add more people to it continuously. Will you live holy in the family of God today by loving Jesus for adding you to the church by faith in Jesus, Who gave you His free gift of eternal life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 151

The Sick Today



What effect did Peter have? The church and others carried the sick into the streets so that the shadow of Peter might fall on them and they be healed.

God used the apostles to produce great signs and wonders and healings among the population and visitors to Jerusalem. The animosity of the religious leaders towards the apostles grew, but did not deter them from continuing their ministry of proclaiming what they have seen and heard about Jesus.

God blessed the ministry and multitudes of people came to know Christ as Savior. Many other people were healed of their physical infirmities. While the religious leaders hoped that they could stop the spread of Christianity, God had other plans that triumphed over all opposition.

Jesus had great compassion upon the poor and the sick. He healed many people in many places in Israel. He healed males and females, Jews and Gentiles, the rich and the poor. Jesus was not a respecter of persons. He loved everyone. No one deserved the blessings they received from Jesus, but

Jesus did the works of His Father and He loved the world and gave His only Son for the redemption of the world.

Shadow

1. **Extent**. What happened with Peter's shadow? People gathered in Jerusalem to see Peter and be healed through him.

2. **Carried**. People from Jerusalem and the vicinity brought the sick and those people with evil spirits, even carrying people who could not walk.

3. **Sick**. Just as Jesus healed the sick, so also Peter healed the sick by the power of God in the Name of Jesus. They placed the sick in the streets.

4. **Peter**. Peter had the power to heal people.

5. **Shadow**. Even when the shadow of Peter fell upon people, they would be healed. Word got around very quickly.

6. **Fall**. Living holy in the family of God means that God used the shadow of Peter to heal people. People literally lined up in the streets so that Peter's shadow would fall upon them and they would be healed.

7. **One**. We rejoice today because Jesus knew each one He healed. He still knows each one He heals today. Peter's shadow may have healed people, but Jesus knows each person healed.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Peter and his shadow.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for His loving power displayed through Peter and his shadow.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the streets of Jerusalem lined with the sick and Peter and his shadow healing them.**

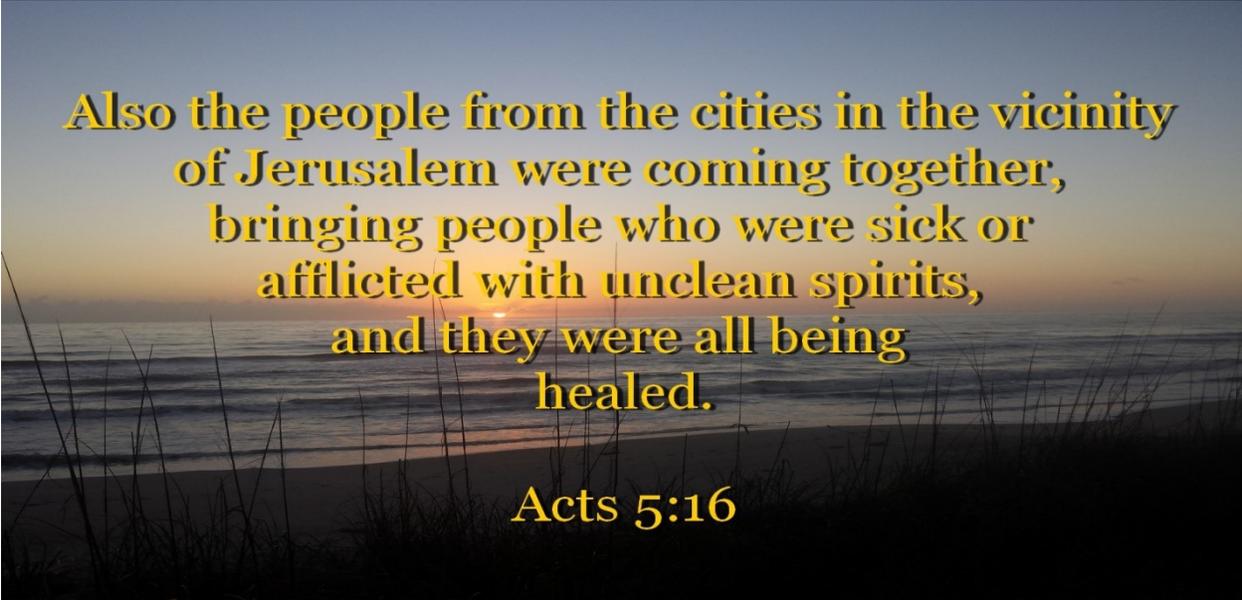
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the shadow of Peter passing by and healing people. Will you live holy in the family of God today by loving God more for healing you when you were dead in your trespasses and sins?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 152

Together Today



Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.

Acts 5:16

Did the news about Peter healing people spread outside of Jerusalem? Yes, people started bringing people sick and afflicted with unclean spirits into Jerusalem from neighboring cities. News was traveling fast about the miracles in Jerusalem.

Peter was a leading spokesman for the apostles. He also gained fame because people came and brought others to Jerusalem so that perhaps Peter's shadow would fall upon them and they would be healed. Peter and John were always careful to give God all the glory for all the healing and miracles.

Notice that people were healed of various sicknesses. Jesus healed people of all their illnesses, except in Nazareth He did not do many miracles because of their unbelief.

People with unclean spirits were also healed. All the people who came for healing were healed, including healing from unclean spirits. It was enough that Peter's shadow fell upon them.

God was doing mighty miracles with signs and wonders through the apostles in Jerusalem. The church was growing fast.

Healed

1. **People**. What people were healed? People from all over Jerusalem and the surrounding area were healed by Peter.

2. **Vicinity**. Not only people from Jerusalem were healed, but also people from the vicinity around Jerusalem were healed.

3. **Coming**. People were coming from all the areas around Jerusalem for healing as news spread to the areas around Jerusalem.

4. **Bringing**. People were bringing other people to Jerusalem so that they might be healed.

5. **Sick**. Sick people came and others brought sick people to Jerusalem for healing by the apostles.

6. **Spirits**. Living holy in the family of God means that God healed both the sick and those with evil spirits.

7. **Healed**. We rejoice today because people were healed by God in the Name of Jesus Christ in the streets of Jerusalem.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that people came to Jerusalem for God to heal them.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God healed people so that they would turn to Him for salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for His grace and mercy to heal people and remove evil spirits from them.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His grace and mercy healing all the people who came to Jerusalem for healing. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that God loves people and provides the healing of salvation as a free gift?

HALLELUJAH !

14

Jail Angel

Today

What happened when the high priest and all his associates saw that the apostles were healing all the sick and afflicted and casting out the unclean spirits? They became very jealous. They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail.

During the night the angel the Lord opened the gates of the prison. He led them outside and said that they should go back to the Temple and speak to the people there the whole message of this life. When they heard that message, they entered into the Temple about daybreak and began to teach.

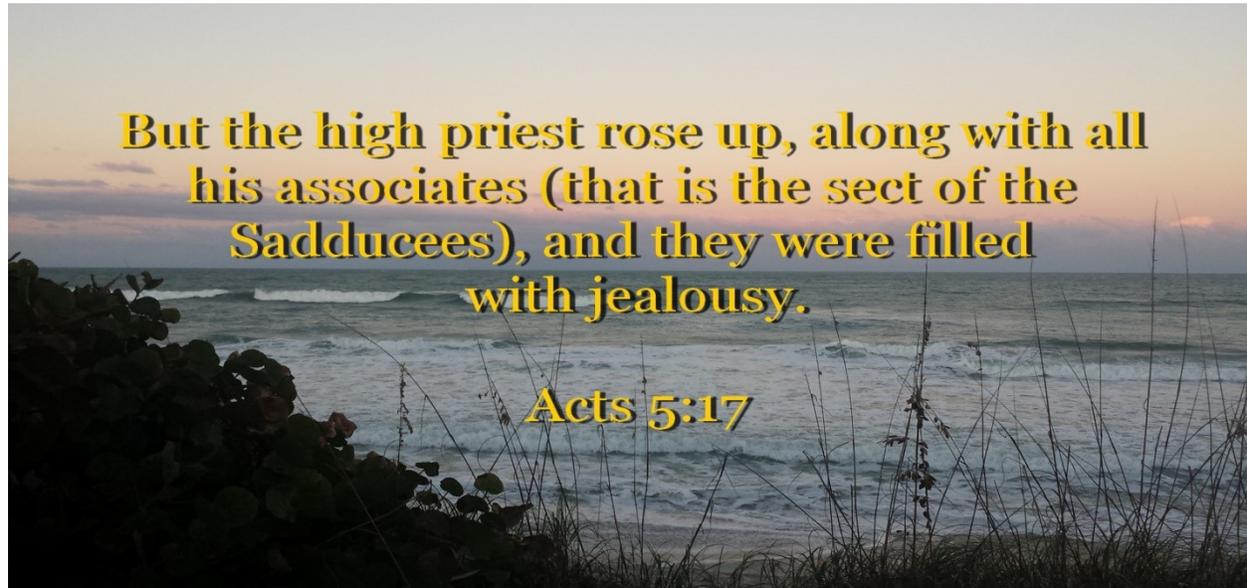
When the high priest and his associates came, they called the Council together, including the Senate of the sons of Israel. They then sent orders to retrieve the prisoners and bring them before the Council. The officers went looking for them in the prison, but did not find them. They reported that they looked for the prisoners, but they found the prison locked securely and the guards standing at their stations. When they opened up the prison, they found no one inside. When the chief of the Temple guard and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed as to what would happen next. About that same time, a report reached them that the men they were seeking were standing in the Temple and teaching the people. Then the captain along with the officers went to the Temple to bring them back without violence. They were afraid the people might stone them.

They brought back the apostles and they stood before the Council. The high priest questioned them about the strict orders they gave them not to teach any more in the Name of Jesus. The apostles had disregarded that order and filled Jerusalem with their teaching, intending to bring the blood of Jesus upon the Council members. Peter and the apostles answered, “we must obey God rather than men.” Peter continued saying that God raised up Jesus and put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. He also declared that God exalted Jesus to His right hand as the Prince and the Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. The apostles declared themselves to be witnesses of these things. Likewise, they also proclaimed the Holy Spirit also testified that these things and God gives the Holy Spirit to those people who obey Him.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 153

Sadducees Today



Where God works, the devil often opposes that work. The religious authorities played a leading role in crucifying Jesus. Jesus repeatedly told them that they never knew God the Father and so they never knew Him. Jesus spent considerable time talking to many religious leaders and some of them quietly believed in Him.

The high priest occupied the office God established in the Old Testament, beginning with Aaron. By New Testament times, the office of high priest and the King of Israel operated under the direction of the Roman government. The Romans had conquered Israel and had ultimate power to control the affairs of state and religion. You may recall that the Jews were unable to crucify Christ themselves. They needed the Romans to crucify Jesus under Roman law. Therefore, Pontius Pilate passed judgment on Jesus and condemned Him to crucifixion.

The sect of the Sadducees controlled the high priesthood. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection or in angels or an afterlife.

Another sect, the Pharisees, believed in all of them and opposed the Sadducees. They were filled with jealousy watching Peter and the apostles.

Jealousy

1. **High Priest**. Who was the high priest? The high priest functioned as a religious leader under the control of the Romans.

2. **Rose Up**. Seeing people from all over Jerusalem and the vicinity being healed by the apostles, who were teaching, preaching and healing the Name of the Lord Jesus, the high priest began to rise up.

3. **Associates**. The high priest also had associates.

4. **Sect**. The high priest came from the sect of the Sadducees. They did not believe in angels, the afterlife, or resurrection.

5. **Sadducees**. The Sadducees opposed the Pharisees who believed in angels, the afterlife and the resurrection. Paul was a Pharisee before he came to faith in Christ as Savior.

6. **Filled**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the Sadducees were filled with jealousy because the apostles were drawing tremendous crowds and healing everyone.

7. **Jealousy**. We rejoice today because God too is Jealous, and Jealous is His Name. So when the Sadducees and the high priest rose up in jealousy against the apostles, God's plans for expanding Christianity continued.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the high priest and the Sadducees opposed Jesus and the apostles.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that the religious authorities rose up in jealousy against the apostles.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by expecting that when God does great works, many religious people will oppose the work of God.**

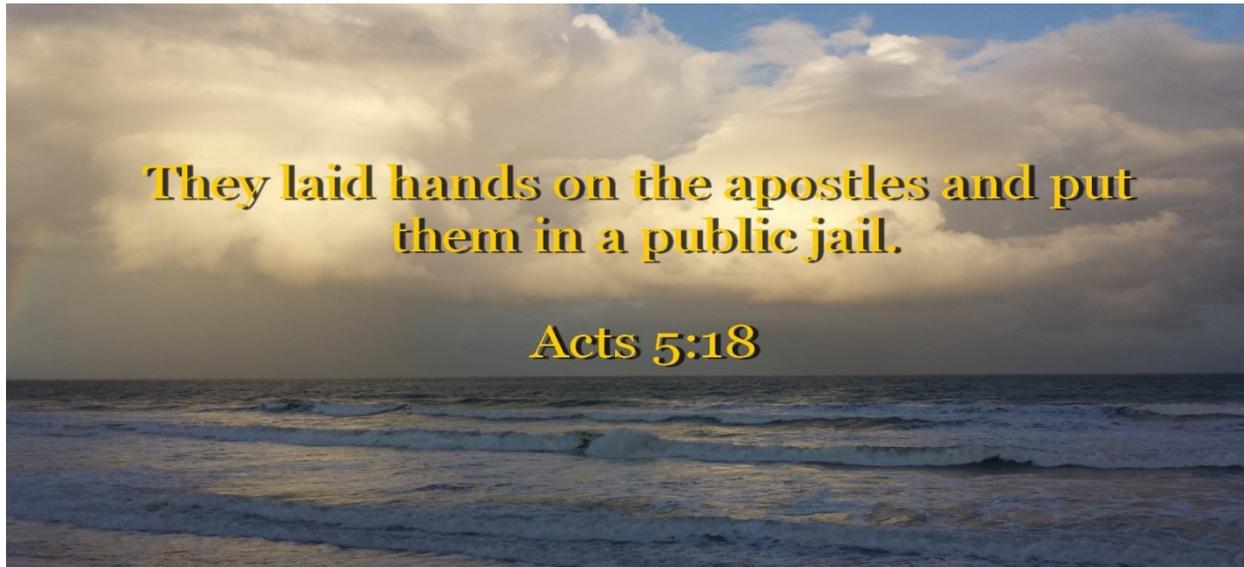
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that He works through His faithful servants, even if they do not use religious titles. Will you live holy in the family of God today by understanding that religious leaders become jealous when God works to bring thousands of people to salvation and heals people?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 154

Apostles Today



They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail.

Acts 5:18

What did the jealous religious rulers do to the apostles? They laid hands on them and put them in jail.

The religious authorities had the power to arrest people. They even had their own soldiers and prisons. At all times, however, they operated under the authority of Rome and answered to Rome for their actions. The religious authorities lacked the power to condemn anybody to death and carry out the death sentence.

Filled with jealousy, they arrested Peter and the rest of the apostles. The religious leaders had already arrested Peter and John once and commanded them not to teach or preach anymore in the Name of Jesus. Of course, Peter and John told them they would not obey the command because they could not stop speaking and must do what was right in the sight of God.

The Sadducees, and more particularly the high priest, had great religious power, including the power of arrest and imprisonment. Filled with jealousy when they saw the miracles taking place through the apostles and the tremendous growth of the church in Jerusalem, plus the miracles of healing, the Sadducees and the high priest knew they must act immediately.

The focal point of their attention were the apostles and they arrested them and put them in jail.

Jail

1. **They**. What measures did the religious authorities take to stop the apostles? They put them in jail.

2. **Laid**. The religious authorities laid hands upon the apostles.

3. **Hands**. By laying hands upon the apostles, they imposed their will to silence the apostles, at least temporarily.

4. **Apostles**. Jesus had chosen the apostles to be His witnesses. Their arrest presented more opportunities for them to proclaim Christ as Savior to the religious authorities. The public would also know they were continuing to speak and teach for Christ.

5. **Put**. The religious leaders thought that putting the apostles in jail would also imprison the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but it could not be put in jail.

6. **Public**. Living holy in the family of God means that God may send us to public jail for our faith.

7. **Jail**. We rejoice today because Jesus and His apostles were put in jail. They did nothing wrong in the sight of God, but they were put in jail by jealous religious authorities.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus and the apostles were put in jail for their faith.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting God to do His will in our lives, even if it means we suffer going to jail for our faithful service to Him.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praying that the government and religious authorities would allow all saints to live a quiet and tranquil life.**

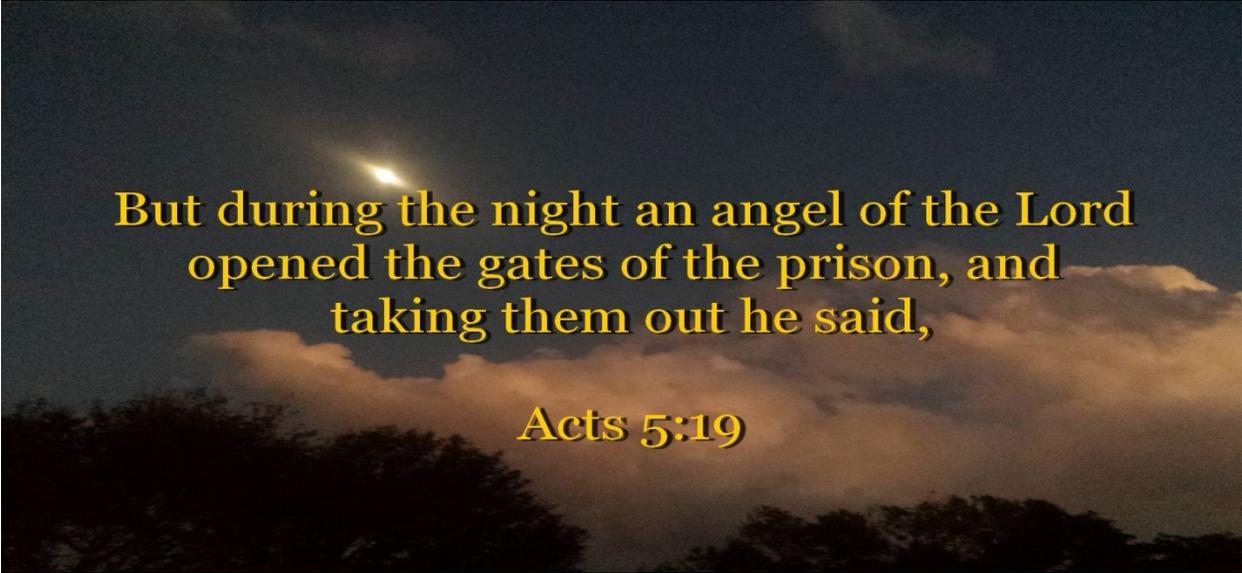
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding that God allowed the apostles to be put in jail. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming the Name of the Lord Jesus, no matter what?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 155

Angel Today



But during the night an angel of the Lord
opened the gates of the prison, and
taking them out he said,

Acts 5:19

What happened at night while the apostles were in prison? The Lord opened the gates of the prison.

The religious Council imprisoned the apostles for preaching and teaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The religious leaders were also jealous because of the vast multitudes of people joining the church by faith in the resurrected Lord as Savior.

While humans think they can imprison people in their jails, they overlook that all jails sit on God's planet. He controls all things on His planet. God has no problem freeing anybody at any time from any place.

God sent an angel of the Lord to free the apostles being held as prisoners. The angel of the Lord came during the night and opened the gates of the prison. The angel then took the apostles out. Nothing on earth could have stopped that angel from his appointed mission.

God had decided to free the apostles from the prison so they could continue their ministry in His Name. In the Old Testament, one angel killed more than 180,000 soldiers in one night. Another angel went to the land of

Egypt killing the first born of everything, except the children of the Jews in the land of Goshen with blood applied to their door posts and lintels. Humans cannot stop God's angels from accomplishing God's will. God willed that the apostles be set free to continue their ministry for Him.

Opened

1. **During**. How did the Lord help the apostles? The apostles spent the night in the religious authorities' prison. During that night, the Lord sent one of His angels to help the apostles.

2. **Night**. With the darkness of night came the power of God.

3. **Angel**. The Lord sent His angel to help the apostles wrongly imprisoned for their service to the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. **Lord**. God often sent angels to help people. They are ministering spirits to help the saints.

5. **Opened**. The angel opened the gates and freed the apostles, leading them out from the prison.

6. **Out**. Living holy in the family of God means that God has the power to free anyone in any prison, as He desires. He sent His angel to lead the apostles out of the prison.

7. **Said**. We rejoice today because the angel led the apostles out of the prison and also gave them a message from God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the angel who freed the apostles from the religious prison.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting God to deliver us from hard times, and even imprisonment, as He desires.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising Jesus for His wonderful deliverance of the apostles, showing that the religious Council really had no power over them.**

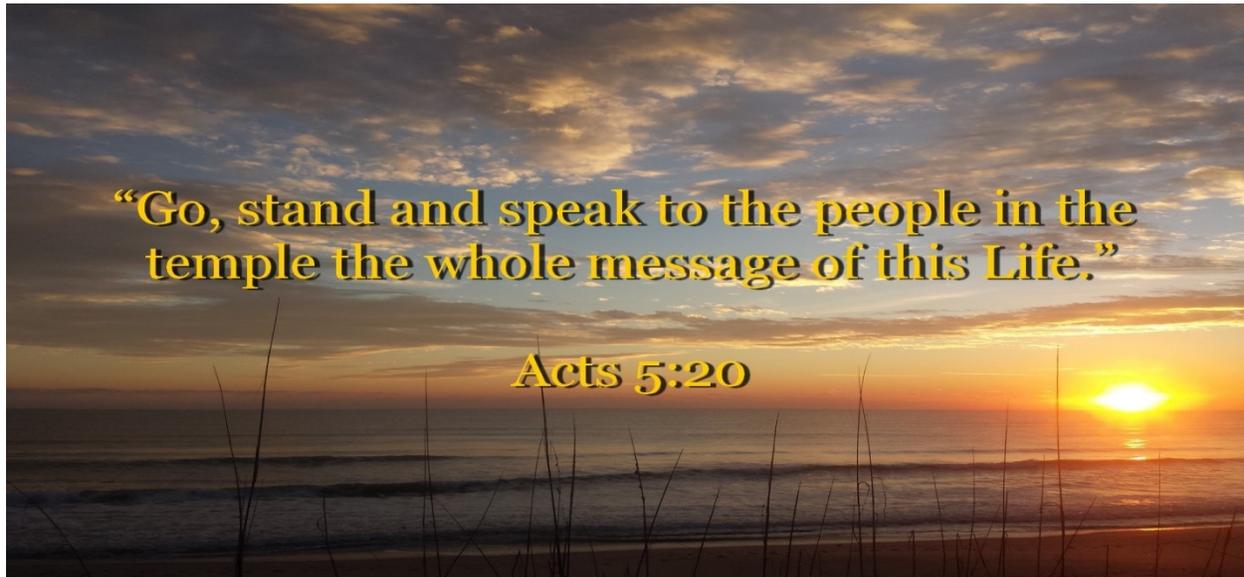
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding that every prison on earth sits on God's planet. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting Jesus to help you live free of religious bondage in your life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 156

Speak Today



Why did God free the apostles? God freed the apostles so that they could go right back to the Temple and keep on proclaiming His words.

After the religious Council imprisoned the apostles, God stepped in with His plan. The religious Council acted out of jealousy and hatred of God and His ways. Multitudes were coming to Christ as Savior and the religious Council would try almost anything to stop that activity.

The apostles were doing the work of God with the power of God. According to the divine will, they were preaching and teaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Multitudes of people heard their preaching and witnessed the miracles done by God through their hands. Many people were being healed of their diseases and the evil spirits cast out.

The religious Council had already threatened Peter and John once after the miracle of the Beautiful Beggar. The Council knew that the people of Jerusalem were squarely behind Peter and John and the apostles. The Council feared losing their position of authority with the Romans and losing

their country as they knew it. Although the religious Council had great power among men, the power of God infinitely overshadowed their earthly power.

Message

1. **Go.** What did the angel say to the apostles? The angel told them to resume their normal activity in the Temple.

2. **Stand.** The angel, sent from God and speaking for God, told the apostles to go and stand in the Temple. The apostles did not hide themselves in fear, but were instructed to stand boldly in the Temple.

3. **Speak.** As the apostles stood in the Temple, they were to speak out in the Name of the Lord Jesus.

4. **People.** The apostles were to speak to the people in the Temple, as was their usual custom.

5. **Temple.** The Temple was a very public building. The apostles were filled with boldness from the Holy Spirit and had been proclaiming Jesus despite the religious opposition.

6. **Message.** Living holy in the family of God means that God sent His apostles to the Temple to proclaim the message of eternal life in Jesus.

7. **Life.** We rejoice today because the apostles also proclaimed the whole message of this life, which includes proclaiming Christ Jesus the Savior to everyone who would listen in the Temple.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the message from the angel sent to the apostles.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by proclaiming the whole message of this life.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving Jesus for delivering us from sinful bondage so that we might proclaim the whole message of this life found in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

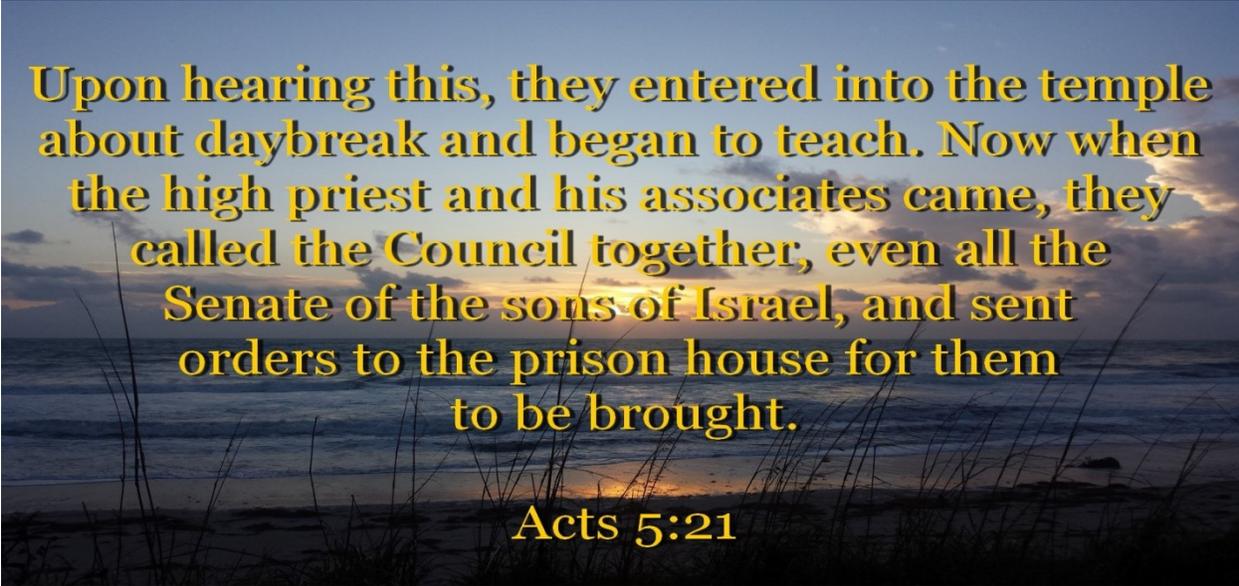
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the angel and his message to the apostles. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting Jesus to give you the words and the power to say them so that people will hear from you the whole message of this life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 157

Hearing Today



Upon hearing this, they entered into the temple about daybreak and began to teach. Now when the high priest and his associates came, they called the Council together, even all the Senate of the sons of Israel, and sent orders to the prison house for them to be brought.

Acts 5:21

What did the apostles do when they were freed? They entered into the Temple about daybreak.

When the high priest and his associates gathered the Council to them, including the Senate of the sons of Israel, they sent orders to the prison for the apostles to be brought before the Council. This pattern of arrest by religious and government authorities continued throughout the New Testament times and beyond. People in authority thrive on the power of the world in many cases. The ruler of this world, the devil, motivates them to do his will. The devil is the father of liars and when governments lie, they reveal that they are the children of the devil.

The religious Council had heard about the many miracles taking place in Jerusalem through the apostles. They knew about the Beautiful Beggar being healed by Peter and John and the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, but then they heard about multitudes of people being healed in the streets. Jealousy filled their hearts.

The dumbest plan on earth opposes the plan of God. When the religious Council sought to obstruct and destroy the plan of God, they overlooked that the apostles were acting with miraculous powers bestowed upon them by God. Holding the apostles against the will of God would never work out well for the religious Council.

Teach

1. **Hearing.** What did the apostles do after hearing from the angel? They went to the Temple, just as they were instructed.

2. **Temple.** By returning to the Temple, everyone would know where they were and why they were there. The religious Council would know where to find them, if they went looking.

3. **Daybreak.** The apostles went to the Temple at daybreak, apparently leaving straight from prison to the Temple. They wasted no time in getting back to ministry.

4. **Teach.** The apostles picked up teaching in the Temple. The threats of the religious Council did not stop them from speaking and teaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. **Council.** The Council convened again, not knowing the apostles had left.

6. **Senate.** Living holy in the family of God means that the religious Council, including the religious Senate, could not impose its will upon the apostles, despite their best efforts.

7. **Back.** We rejoice today because when the Council directed that the apostles be brought back before the Council from prison, the apostles were not there because God had freed them using an angel to open the prison gates.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the religious Council, with the religious Senate, thought they could imprison the apostles without consequence.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God as we praise God for delivering the apostles so that they could continue their ministry of preaching and teaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His powerful love that delivered us from all the penalty of all our sins and we heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ because, in part, the apostles spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ far and wide.**

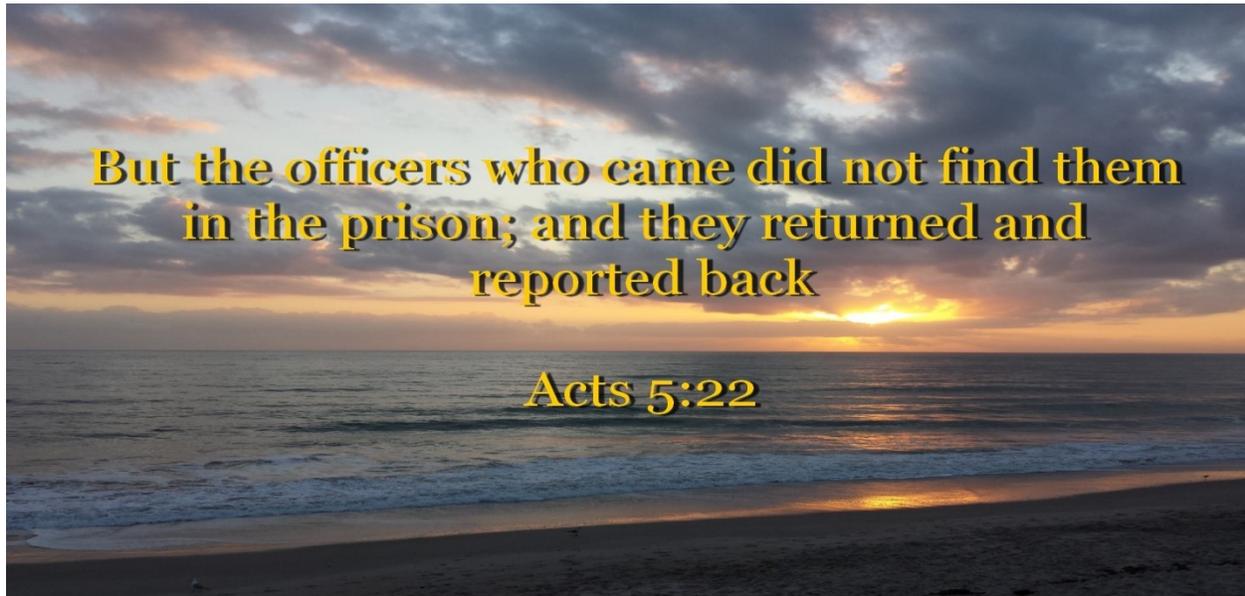
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His power and love. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that the prison was empty when the religious Council sought to bring the apostles in for questioning?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 158

Prison Today



What did the officers find when they came to the prison? The officers did not find the apostles in the prison.

The religious Council imprisoned the apostles, hoping to stop their ministry and the miracles. The religious Council opposed the work of God and hated the apostles and despised the miracles taking place through them. The jealousy of the religious Council knew no bounds.

The religious Council imprisoned the apostles, but their plan failed miserably and quickly. They could not hold the apostles for even one night in their prison. They used cells, locks and chains with soldiers guarding the gate. Even so, their plan to hold the apostles against God's will failed immediately.

The religious Council had a history of opposing God and His work. Not long before, they had crucified Jesus after trying Him in their religious courts. The very people in authority who should be promoting the plans of God actually opposed them with all the power they could muster.

Anyone fighting against the power of God will never deflect God from doing His will. Precious in His sight is the death of one soul of His child.

Reported

1. **Officers**. When the officers returned to the prison, what did they find? They found the apostles were not there.

2. **Came**. The officers came to the prison, just at the religious Council ordered them to do. Both the officers and the religious Council had no idea that the apostles were long gone.

3. **Find**. The officers came to the prison and found nothing amiss, except they could not find the apostles there.

4. **Them**. They simply could not find them in the prison.

5. **Prison**. The prison held not a single apostle; they were all gone and nothing looked out of place.

6. **Returned**. Living holy in the family of God means that we know why the soldiers returned to the religious Council and reported that the apostles were not there. God sent an angel to deliver the apostles from prison.

7. **Reported**. We rejoice today because the soldiers reported that the apostles were not there. That report certainly did not go over well with the religious Council.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the report of the soldiers, that the apostles were no longer in prison.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for delivering the apostles, but the religious Council and the soldiers had no idea the apostles had left until they went to the prison looking for them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His infinite power to open prison doors and set prisoners free at any time. No prison on earth can withstand the will of God when He intends to free His apostles.**

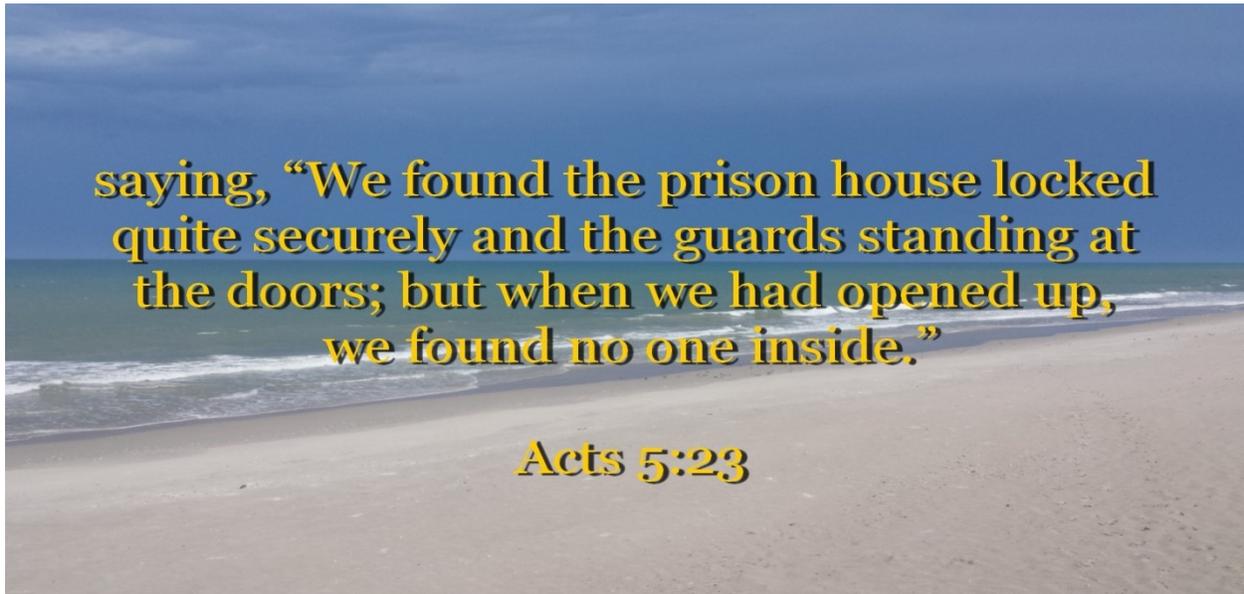
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the way He spared the apostles and sent them right back to the Temple. Will you live holy in the family of God today by being courageous to speak up for Jesus, even if soldiers are looking for you?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 159

Locked Today



What did the soldiers tell the Council? The soldiers told the Council they found no one inside the prison.

The religious Council must have been terribly deflated when they heard the news. They should have repented of their sinful plans to oppose the apostles and turn to Jesus Christ for salvation. Instead of seeing the plans of God and the power of God at work in Jerusalem and giving glory to God, they continued their twisted efforts filled with a hot blast of jealousy to oppose God and His work among the people through the apostles.

Jerusalem was filled with people healed by God and their demons cast out. The evidence of God's work through miracles and signs and wonders filled Jerusalem and a multitude of witnesses testified to the glory and power of God at work among them. The religious Council had no interest in calling those witnesses before the Council. Their sole purpose was to prosecute the apostles and shut down all works done in the Name of Jesus Christ. The religious Council never knew God and hated Jesus Christ and His Father and the Holy Spirit.

The religious Council had no interest in promoting God's plans throughout their city or country. They only had one goal: stop Jesus.

Found No One

1. **Saying**. What did the soldiers tell the religious Council? The soldiers told the religious Council that the apostles were not in the prison.

2. **Prison**. The soldiers went to the prison looking for the apostles, but found they were gone.

3. **Locked**. The prison was still locked securely, but no apostles were inside.

4. **Securely**. They checked the security and it was all intact.

5. **Guards**. The guards were awake and at their stations.

6. **Opened**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that when the soldiers opened the locked gates, they found the apostles were not there.

7. **Inside**. We rejoice today because the apostles were not inside the prison when the soldiers came to take them to the religious Council. The religious Council tried to stop the miracles, but instead a new miracle occurred in their own prison.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God frees prisoners at will.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that the soldiers never left their posts and the all the security remained intact, but the apostles were not there.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for His mighty power to protect the apostles and free them from prison.**

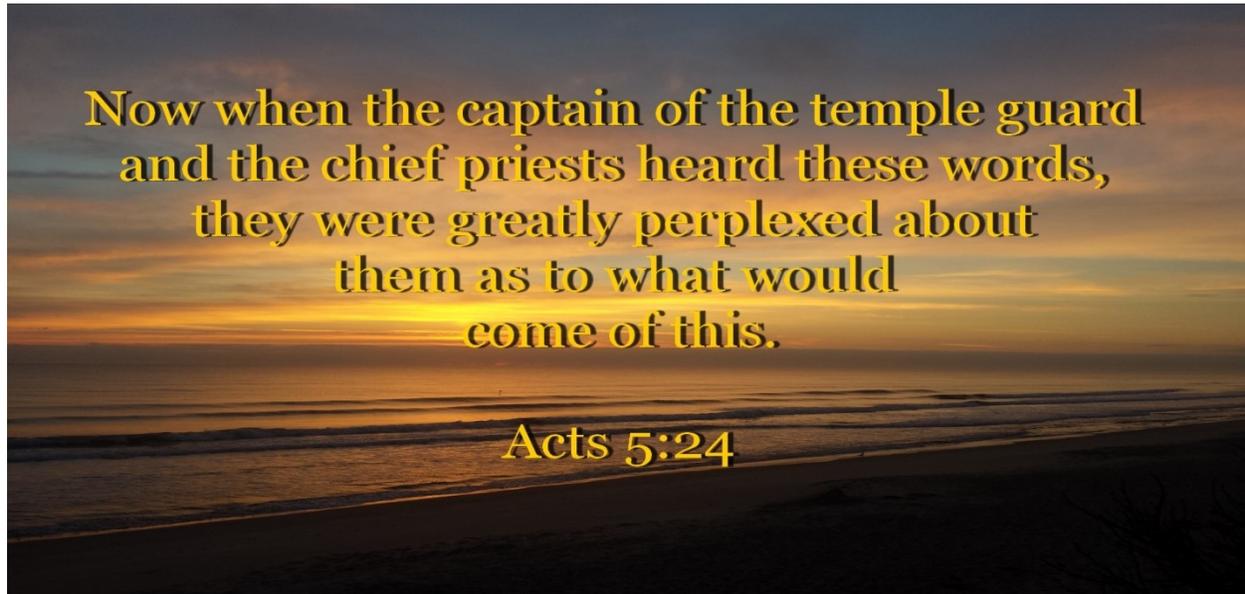
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting God to provide safety and security at all times, as He wills. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the fully secure prison, but with no apostles present?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 160

Temple Guard Today



Why were the captain of the Temple guard and the chief priests perplexed? They were perplexed by the report from the soldiers who came back and told them that the prison was secure, but the apostles were gone.

The religious Council wanted to stifle the apostles and stop them from performing more miracles. The religious Council hated Christ and had killed Him, thinking that was the end of that matter. They were terribly mistaken because Christ was resurrected and the Holy Spirit came to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the ministry of the apostles.

The religious Council tried warning Peter and John to stop preaching and teaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Those warnings and threats had no effect upon the apostles. In fact, many more people believed because of the miracles they continued to do and the word they preached about the Lord Jesus Christ.

From the perspective of the religious Council, things were going from bad to worse. In contrast, from God's perspective, the Gospel of Jesus Christ was being proclaimed and multitudes were believing in Jesus for salvation.

Some religious people will always rise up to oppose God. The religious Council remained perplexed because they opposed God and His apostles.

Perplexed

1. **Captain**. What news perplexed the captain of the Temple guard? The news that the apostles were no longer locked in prison.

2. **Guard**. The Jews had their own soldiers to guard the Temple, but they were ultimately under Roman command.

3. **Chief Priests**. The chief priests (notice the plural) had taken action to imprison the apostles, but they too were perplexed that the apostles were no longer in the prison.

4. **Heard**. The officers reported back the religious Council that the prison was secure and fully locked, but no apostles were to be found there.

5. **Perplexed**. The captain of the Temple guard and the chief priests were all perplexed by the report of the closed prison, with guards in place, but no apostles.

6. **What**. Living holy in the family of God means that God does miracles that amaze people and makes them question what they are doing and what is to come.

7. **Come**. We rejoice today because God worked a miracle to release the apostles from jail and left the religious Council wondering what would come of this great event.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God perplexes some religious leaders.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that some religious leaders oppose God's workers and then stand perplexed because God works miracles to free the people they imprisoned wrongfully.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for His power to deliver His own and perplex the captors at the same time.**

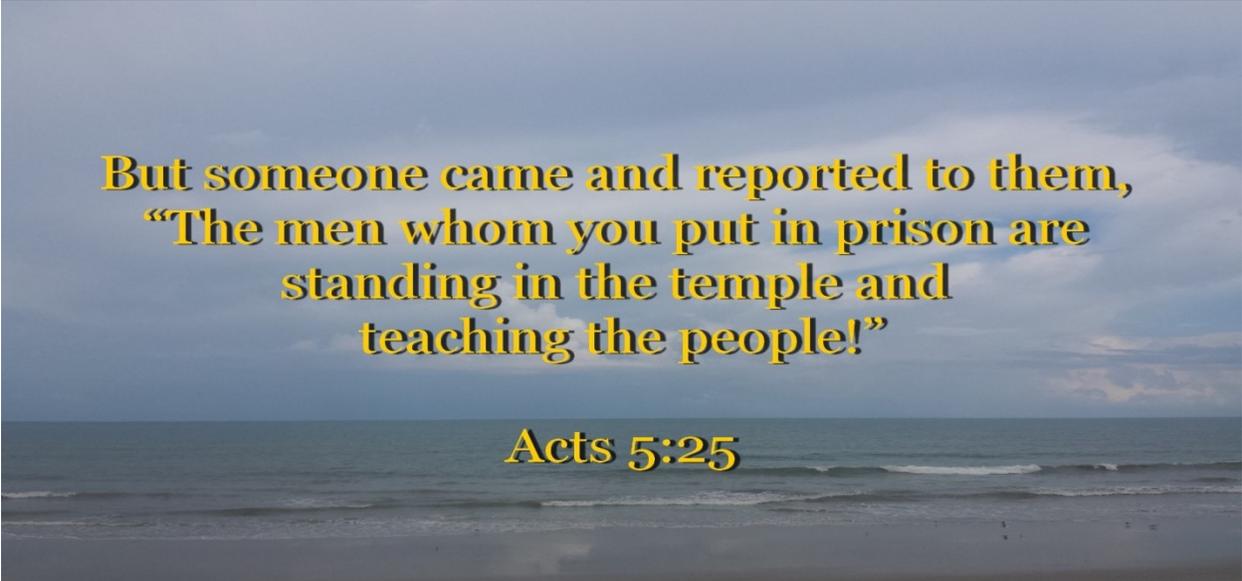
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His power to deliver the apostles and perplex the religious Council. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for His powerful love that rescued us from the domain of the devil?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 161

Reported Today



**But someone came and reported to them,
“The men whom you put in prison are
standing in the temple and
teaching the people!”**

Acts 5:25

What report came to the religious Council? Someone came and reported that the prisoners were standing in the Temple.

While the religious Council and the captain of the Temple guard wondered what would come from the miraculous release of the apostles from prison, someone brought a report to them about the apostles. Someone reported that the apostles, whom the religious Council had imprisoned, stood free and the Temple. They were freely teaching the people just as they had done before their imprisonment.

The religious Council schemed repeatedly to silence the apostles. All over Jerusalem multitudes of people were coming to believe in the risen Christ as Savior. The apostles worked so many miracles that people from all over were coming to be healed by them and to have their demons cast out. The religious Council seethed with jealousy.

Confronted with the unmistakable evidence of the power of God at work through the resurrected Christ and the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the religious Council steadfastly held to their hatred and jealousy, rather than

repenting and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. The religious Council opposed the work of God and denied the love of God.

Teaching

1. **Someone**. What did someone report to the perplexed religious Council? Someone reported that the apostles were in the Temple.

2. **Came**. Some came back to the religious Council, apparently having learned that the apostles were again in the Temple.

3. **Reported**. Someone reported very disturbing news to the religious Council because the very men they thought they had imprisoned for preaching and teaching in the Name of Jesus were actually in the Temple doing the very thing the religious Council had commanded them to stop.

4. **Men**. The report must have shocked the religious Council when they heard about the men they had just imprisoned.

5. **Prison**. The religious Council found out that no prison on earth could hold the apostles when God wanted them out preaching and teaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus.

6. **Standing**. Living holy in the family of God means that the apostles did just as the angel commanded them. They were standing up in public and proclaiming the whole message of this Life.

7. **Temple**. We rejoice today because God sent the apostles right back to the Temple to continue their ministry with the Holy Spirit working through them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the power of God to open prison doors so that the apostles could return immediately to the Temple to continue preaching and teaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that the news of the apostles standing in the Temple spread quickly, even back to the religious Council that thought their prison would hold the apostles.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for sending the apostles back to continue their ministry in the Temple while confounding the religious Council with their bold obedience to God.**

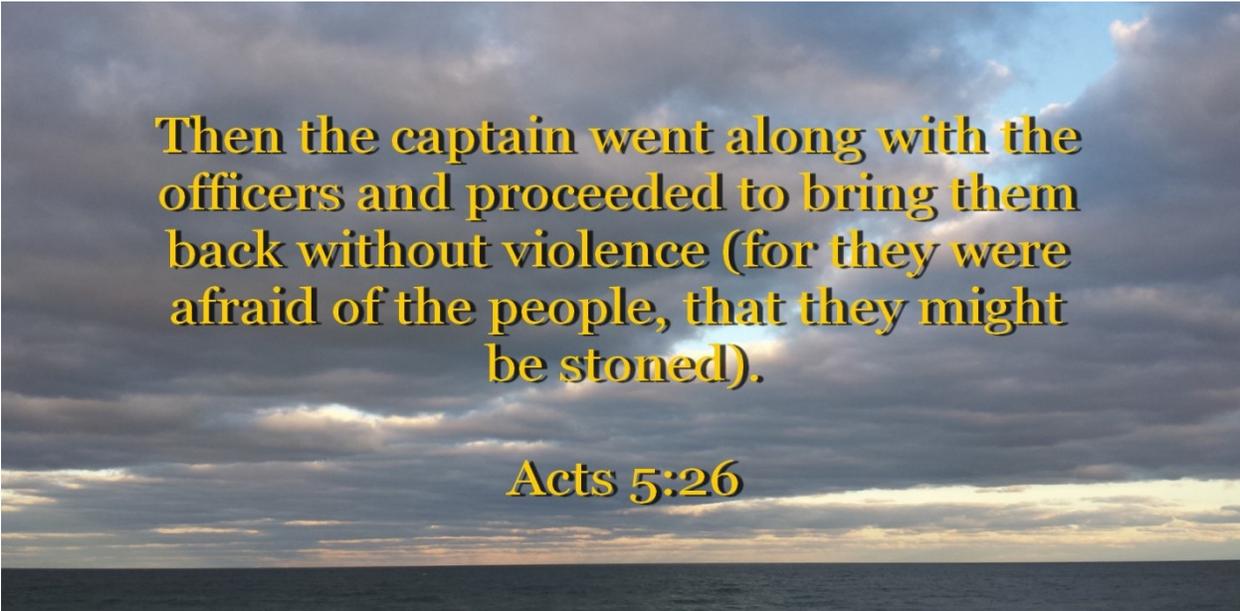
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the apostles that ignored the religious Council and stood in the Temple teaching the people the whole message of this Life. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with the boldness of the apostles standing in the Temple?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 162

Afraid Today



Then the captain went along with the officers and proceeded to bring them back without violence (for they were afraid of the people, that they might be stoned).

Acts 5:26

What did the captain of the Temple guard do after hearing the report? The captain proceeded to bring the apostles back to appear before the religious Council.

The religious Council obstinately opposed God. They hated the apostles and the works of God. They organized their forces to subdue the apostles and squelch their ministry by force and imprisonment. Of course, fighting against God always leads to destruction in the end. While the world forces of darkness may prevail for a time, the plans of God will never be defeated and the Lord Jesus will triumph. In fact, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

The captain and the officers brought the apostles back without violence. They rightly feared the crowd would stone them if they apprehended the apostles using violence. Apparently, the apostles did not resist being arrested again. They knew that God had miraculously delivered them the first time and, at His pleasure, could deliver them again.

The apostles had broad support among the multitudes in Jerusalem. The religious Council had already lost the hearts and minds of the people of Jerusalem and the neighboring area. They could not risk insurrection.

Stoned

1. **Captain**. Having heard the report about the apostles, what did the captain of the Temple guard do? The captain took the officers and went to the Temple.

2. **Officers**. The officers of the Temple guard had authority to guard the Temple and keep order there.

3. **Bring**. The captain and the officers had a very delicate mission. Crowds thronged the Temple to see the apostles and perhaps benefit from Peter's shadow. The captain and the officers would not dare to inflame the crowds by arresting the apostles using normal strong-arm tactics.

4. **Violence**. The captain and the officers knew they could not use violence to bring the apostles back before the religious Council.

5. **Afraid**. The captain and the officers had every right to be afraid of the crowds at the Temple hanging on the words of the apostles.

6. **People**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the people who benefitted from the ministry of the apostles were prepared to stone anyone who tried to arrest them with violence.

7. **Stoned**. We rejoice today because the people at the Temple loved the apostles and knew God was with the apostles. Anyone trying to harm the apostles with violence must be careful not to stir up the crowd because they may stone anyone messing with the apostles.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the people ready to protect the apostles from violence.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for the people who stand up to protect the servants of God from violence.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His grace and mercy in our lives because Jesus holds us in the palm of His hand and the Father covers us too with His hand.**

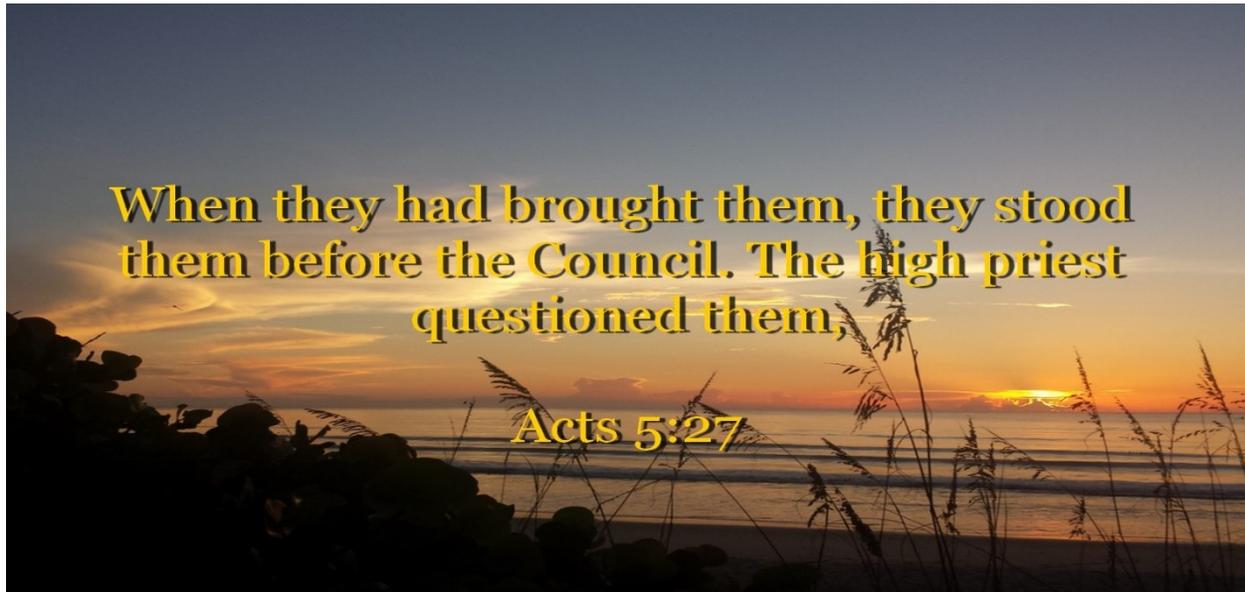
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by being ready to protect people who stand up and boldly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praying for the protection of saints who boldly proclaim the whole message of this Life in places where the government and religious councils seek to stop them, even using violence?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 163

Stood Today



What happened when the apostles were brought back before the religious Council? The high priest began to question the apostles.

The same religious Council that crucified Jesus now attacks the apostles again. The powerbase of the religious Council depended upon the Roman government on the right hand and the popular support of the people on the left hand. Those two hands were frequently in conflict, putting the religious Council in a politically difficult place.

Please notice that the religious Council was religious in name only, because that Council consistently opposed the apostles and the will of God. While the religious Council wrestled with staying in favor with the people, they chose to suppress the activity of the apostles, if possible. Arresting the apostles with violence would provoke stoning by the crowd.

The crowds in Jerusalem had seen the works of God through the hands of the apostles. Multitudes had come to Christ lately through the ministry of the Holy Spirit working in the apostles. Those multitudes would not look kindly upon any physical attack upon the apostles. Yet, the apostles

undermined the authority of the religious Council and threatened its position of power with the Roman government.

Questioned

1. **When**. Who questioned the apostles on behalf of the religious Council? The high priest questioned the apostles. He began his questioning when the soldiers delivered them to the religious Council

2. **They**. The religious Council dispatched soldiers to bring the prisoners back to the Council. They understood that they could not use physical violence to apprehend the apostles and bring them back to the religious Council.

3. **Brought**. The soldiers brought back the apostles to the religious Council. The apostles did not resist with violence. Just the night before, an angel had freed the apostles from the prison and sent them back to the Temple.

4. **Stood**. Upon arrival, the apostles stood before the religious Council. Peter and John had already made an appearance there and openly declared their intention to continue preaching and teaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, despite the direct command from the religious Council to cease such activity.

5. **Them**. The religious Council questioned them, disregarding all the miracles and signs and wonders that confirmed that the apostles were acting for the God of Israel, the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. **Council**. Living holy in the family of God means that we understand that some religious organizations oppose the Lord Jesus Christ and seek to stifle all Christian activity, especially preaching and teaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Questioned**. We rejoice today because no religious Council stopped the apostles from proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ. As the religious Council questioned the apostles, the high priest should have known he was

opposing God at every turn. Some, maybe all, of the apostles sealed their testimony for Christ by giving their lives in His service. We have all benefited from the faithful service of those apostles and thank God for them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the religious Council opposing the work of God and the apostles faithfully following the commands of Jesus rather than obeying man.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by obeying Jesus rather than the commands of religious authorities that conflict with the commands of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing that the apostles remained faithful to God, despite the pressures put upon them by the religious authorities.**

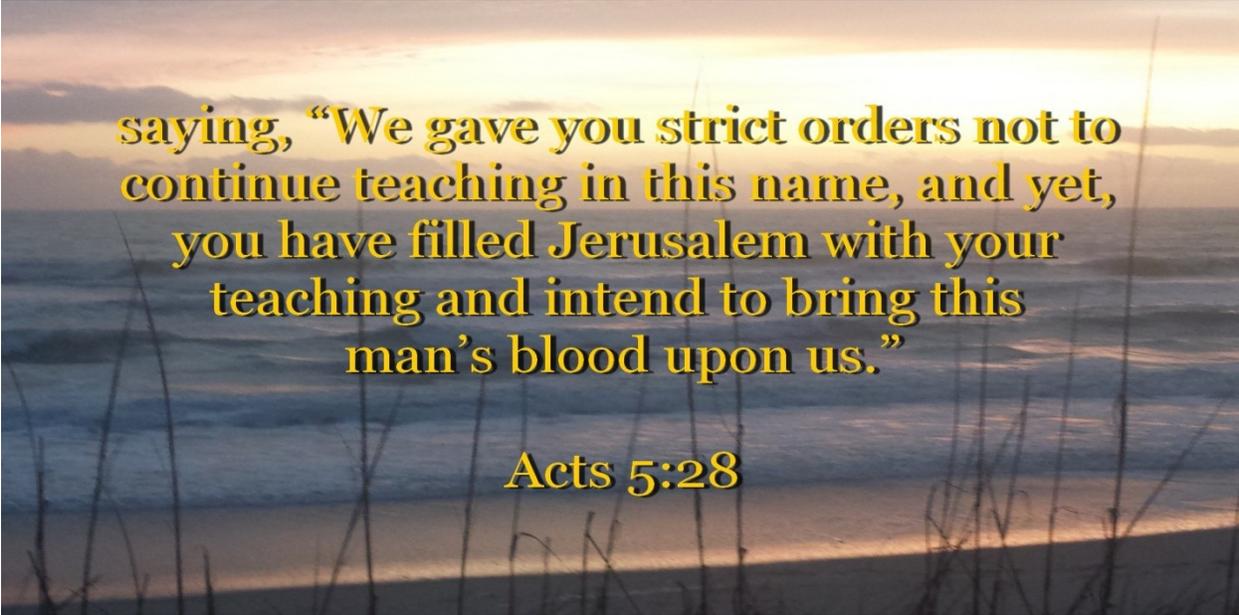
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by expecting that some religious authorities will seek to stop teaching and preaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and question us about all such activity. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting the Holy Spirit to help you answer every question about your faith and practice in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 164

Continue Today



saying, “We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.”

Acts 5:28

What did the religious Council tell the apostles upon their return? The religious Council reminded the apostles to stop teaching in the Name of Jesus.

The religious Council sounded very weak in enforcing its commands. The Council could not stop Peter and John and the other apostles from proclaiming salvation in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit empowered the apostles to do miracles and to be mighty witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Savior lived, making His presence known to everyone in Jerusalem in bringing salvation to multitudes.

The religious Council acknowledged that the apostles had filled Jerusalem with their teaching about Jesus Christ, the Risen Savior. The religious Council also charged the apostles with telling everyone that the religious Council was responsible for the death of Jesus. The apostles had proved that the religious Council had the blood of Jesus on their hands. Of course, the apostles also proved that all of us have the blood of Jesus on our hands. But God, being rich in mercy, saved us, even though we have the blood

of His unique Son on our hands and deserve the death penalty for falling short of the glory of God.

Intend

1. **We**. What were the first words out of the mouth of the religious Council? The said first that they gave strict orders to the apostles earlier.

2. **Gave**. The religious Council gave the orders to the apostles when they arrested Peter and John for healing the Beautiful Beggar in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. **Orders**. The religious Council gave orders, but the apostles told them before that they must obey God's orders, not man's.

4. **Teach**. The religious Council commanded the apostles not to teach any more in the Name of the Lord Jesus.

5. **Man**. The religious Council understood that the apostles were proclaiming that the religious leaders had put Jesus to death and were responsible for His crucifixion.

6. **Bring**. Living holy in the family of God means that many people object to any teaching bringing the blood of Jesus upon them. In fact, we are all responsible for the blood of Jesus being shed, but it only becomes effective in our lives for salvation by grace through faith.

7. **Blood**. We rejoice today because of the blood of Jesus Christ covering our sins for all eternity. While others hate the teaching of the apostles concerning Jesus, we know they preached the words of eternal life in Jesus by faith in Jesus, knowing that His blood cleansed us from all sins.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking Jesus for shedding His blood for our sins.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that all of us are guilty of the blood of Jesus, because we all sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing that God loves sinners and demonstrated His love toward us by sending Christ to die for us.**

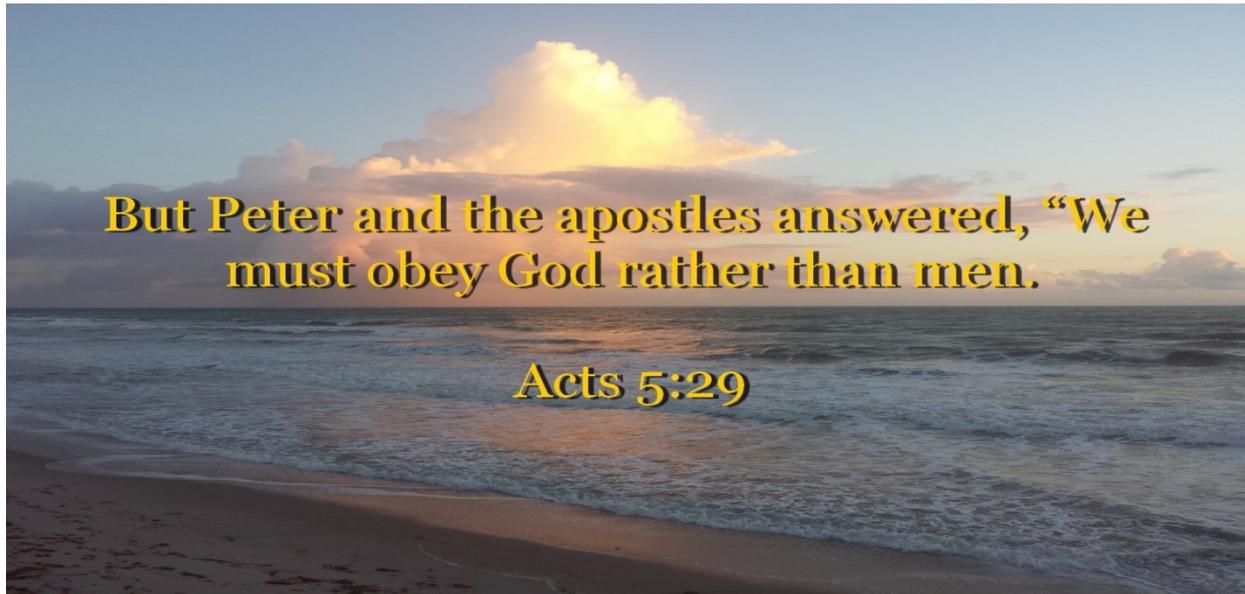
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by spreading the good news that Jesus Christ shed His blood to purchase our salvation by faith. Will you live holy in the family of God today by letting people know they are responsible for shedding the blood of Jesus Christ, but that blood also brings salvation to all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 165

Answered Today



How did Peter and the apostles respond to the charges and commands from the religious Council? Peter and the apostles answered that they must obey God rather than men.

The apostles consistently maintained they were doing the will of God. They proclaimed salvation in the Name of Jesus and testified as eyewitnesses to His resurrection and ascension. God confirmed their ministries with signs and wonders. Multitudes of people with demons and sickness came to Jerusalem to be healed. Even the shadow of Peter falling upon people brought that healing by the power of God.

The apostles never sought personal glory or profit. They gave all the glory to God for every miracle. The Holy Spirit convicted people of sin and drew them to salvation in Jesus Christ the Risen Savior. God blessed the people of Jerusalem and the surrounding area with multitudes receiving Christ as Savior by faith alone.

The apostles consistently challenged the religious Council to consider their actions. Because the apostles were doing the will of God, any opposition

from the religious Council to the apostles constituted opposition to the will of God. The humans on the religious Council were trying to usurp the power of the living God. The apostles confronted the religious Council with the divine truth.

Obey God

1. **But.** When the religious Council confronted the apostles about their continued teaching in the Name of Jesus, what did the apostles say in response? They answered they always must obey God.

2. **Peter.** Peter spoke for the apostles, just as he had spoken before to the religious Council when they ordered the apostles not to speak any more in the Name of Jesus.

3. **Apostles.** Jesus had ordered the apostles to stay together in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them. Even after the Holy Spirit came upon them, they continued to work miracles and God preserved the holy fellowship of the early church by striking down people who lied to the Holy Spirit. Those deaths caused the congregation to have great fear of God, and the congregation did not dare to associate with the apostles, although they held them in high esteem.

4. **Answered.** The apostles were empowered by the Holy Spirit and readily answered the charges of the religious Council.

5. **We.** The apostles boldly declared that the religious Council opposed the will of God. Therefore, the apostles proclaimed: we must obey God, not the orders of men.

6. **Obey.** Living holy in the family of God means that we must always obey God, and not religious authorities and governments who command us to disobey God.

7. **God.** We rejoice today because God demands our obedience as His beloved slaves and so we must continue to speak and to teach in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by letting men know that we cannot obey them when they try to make us disobey God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by declaring to everyone commanding us to disobey God that we must always obey God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by standing together against all commands which require us to disobey God.**

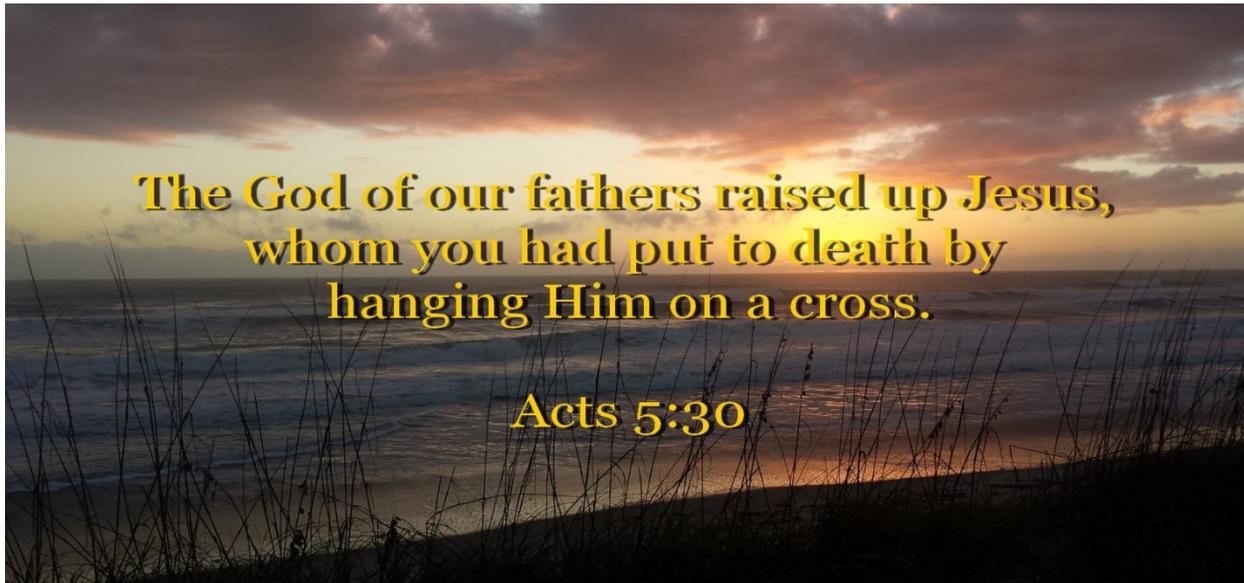
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by standing with all believers who defy commands from religious authorities which try to make us disobey God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by standing against all commands to disobey God, no matter what men gave such orders?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 166

Raised Today



Who raised up Jesus? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob raised up Jesus.

Peter and the apostles answered the religious Council that had arrested them and brought them back to the Council for interrogation. Peter and John had previously been interrogated by the Council and declared that they were going to continue preaching and teaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, despite the order from the religious Council to cease immediately.

The religious Council then arrested all the apostles and put them in prison. That night an angel from the Lord came and opened the prison doors and released the apostles, commanded them to go to the Temple and proclaim the whole message of this Life.

The next morning, the religious Council wanted to interview them but the apostles had gone to the Temple. They were doing just what the angel told them to do. They were teaching and preaching in the Temple in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The religious Council sent out officers to bring them back to the Council and so they were there again. The Council

was upset because the apostles tried to put the blood of Jesus Christ upon the hands of the religious Council.

Peter and the apostles then explained that Jesus was raised up by the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the fathers of Israel. The religious Council, however, put Jesus to death by hanging Him on a cross. They were absolutely guilty of the blood of Jesus Christ and it was all over their hands, just as the apostles proclaimed. Of course, the blood of Jesus Christ is on all of our hands, because we are all guilty of sin which caused him to die in our place for our sin.

Cross

1. **God**. What did God the Father do for Jesus? God, the Father of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of Israel, raised up Jesus.

2. **Our**. Notice that Peter and the apostles referred to our Father, because they were all ethnic Jews.

3. **Fathers**. Peter and the apostles were actually calling upon the fathers as witnesses to the crimes of the religious Council.

4. **Raised**. God raised up Jesus to be the Messiah of Israel, the Savior of the world.

5. **Jesus**. Jesus of Nazareth stood before the same Council and they crucified Him, with the assistance of the Roman government.

6. **You**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that the religious Council put Jesus to death, just as their fathers had killed the prophets before Jesus.

7. **Hanging**. We rejoice today because Jesus purchased our salvation and gave it to us as a free gift by grace through faith. The religious Council put Jesus to death by hanging Him on a cross and His blood would be upon their hands forever.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the God of Israel raised up Jesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the religious Council killed Jesus by hanging Him on a cross.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by confronting religious people of their need for the Savior, Jesus Christ.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving Jesus for submitting Himself to death on a cross, put there by the religious Council. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for Jesus giving Himself for us by dying in our place on that cross where we all deserved to hang?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 167

Exalted Today



Who was exalted to the right hand of God? Jesus was exalted to the right hand of God.

The religious Council hung Jesus of Nazareth on a tree. They were guilty of the blood of Jesus Christ. In contrast to the religious Council, God highly exalted Jesus and raised Him up to His right hand as a prince and a Savior.

The religious Council opposed God in all of His plans. The Council members claimed to be the priests of God and the leaders for God's people. In fact, they killed the Messiah of Israel and imprisoned the apostles of Jesus Christ. They resisted the work of the Holy Spirit and never knew the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The religious Council arrested Peter and the apostles, but feared the people. Multitudes of the people in Jerusalem witnessed the signs and wonders performed by God through the hands of the apostles. The Holy Spirit made His loving power known in the holy city of God. While the religious Council rejected Jesus and oppressed his messengers, the apostles

continued to proclaim salvation in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and multitudes responded to that message with saving faith.

Repentance

1. **He**. Who was Jesus? He was the Savior, and the Cornerstone, whom the builders rejected. His Name was Jesus.

2. **Exalted**. God exalted Jesus, but the religious Council rejected Him.

3. **Hand**. God exalted Jesus to His right hand, and told Him to sit there until He made the enemies of Jesus a footstool for His feet.

4. **Prince**. God exalted Jesus as a Prince. One of the titles of Jesus is Prince of Peace.

5. **Savior**. God also exalted Jesus as Savior. Jesus is the only Name under heaven given among men for salvation.

6. **Repentance**. Living holy in the family of God means that God grants repentance to people, just as He granted repentance to the people of Israel in Jerusalem who received Christ as Savior.

7. **Forgiveness**. We rejoice today because only in the Name of Jesus can people find eternal forgiveness from God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God exalted Jesus to His right hand in heaven.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that Jesus sits today in heaven, having been exalted by God as a Prince and the only Savior of people.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for granting repentance for salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.**

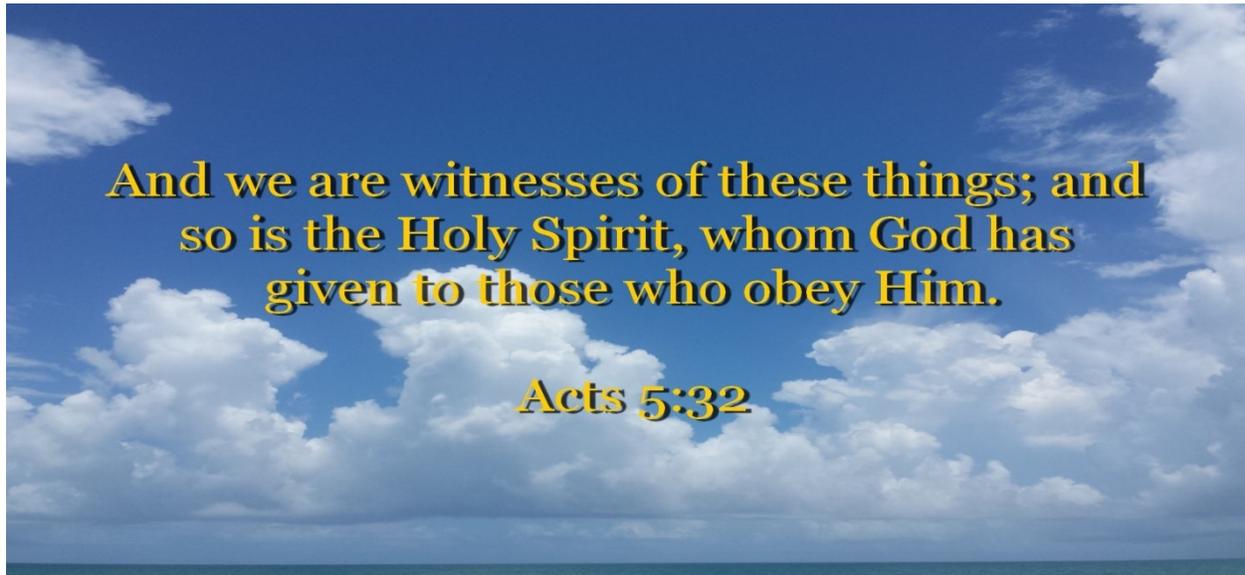
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus our Prince and Savior exalted to the right hand of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping the Prince and Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 168

Witnesses Today



Who were the witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ? The apostles and the Holy Spirit were witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Before Jesus was crucified, Jesus promised that the Father would send the Holy Spirit in His Name. He commanded His apostles to remain in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon them and Jesus baptized them with the Holy Spirit. The church was born in that instant.

The Holy Spirit began to indwell the apostles. He came upon them as cloven tongues of fire and remained upon them. He empowered them as the witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ. He also drew people to Jesus for salvation.

The apostles explained to the religious Council that God gives the Holy Spirit to all people who obey God. Of course, the Holy Spirit had nothing to do with the religious Council because they opposed the work of God. They had crucified Jesus and denied that they were guilty of His blood.

Holy Spirit

1. **We**. What did the apostles tell the religious Council about their ministry? The apostles declared they were the witnesses of all things they had said about Jesus.

2. **Witnesses**. The apostles were eyewitnesses of Jesus, including His life, death, resurrection, ascension, and continued spiritual ministry through the apostles.

3. **Holy Spirit**. The apostles also proclaimed that the Holy Spirit was a witness of all the things they proclaimed to the religious Council.

4. **God**. The apostles also rattled the religious Council with their proclamation that God gives the Holy Spirit to people. They knew that the Holy Spirit was actively supporting the ministry of the apostles with signs and wonders. The religious Council was very jealous of the apostles and the work of God through their ministries.

5. **Given**. The apostles also declared that God gives the Holy Spirit to everyone who obeys God.

6. **Obey**. Living holy in the family of God means that we know that God gave the Holy Spirit to us, because we obeyed God in receiving Jesus Christ as Savior by the grace of God and the gift of faith from God.

7. **Him**. We rejoice today because God the Father revealed Jesus to us, and then God gave us the Holy Spirit at the moment we believed in Jesus. Because God loved us first, God saved us and we obey Him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the Holy Spirit testifies to all the things the apostles proclaimed about Jesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God gives the Holy Spirit to the people at the moment they obey God and receive Jesus Christ as Savior by faith.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving God more for giving us the Holy Spirit.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the free gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing for the ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life?

HALLELUJAH !

15

Gamaliel's Advice Today

Peter and the apostles stood before the Council. They answered the questions from the Council and provided clear testimony about Jesus and His exaltation to the right hand of God as a Prince and a Savior. The apostles declared that the Holy Spirit was a witness to these things, and He testified that the religious Council had crucified the Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth.

The Council members were cut to the quick and intended to kill the apostles. A Pharisee, Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, and highly respected, stood up in the Council and gave orders to put the men outside for a short time. He addressed the Council saying that they should take care with what they proposed to do with these men. He reminded them that some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody and a group of about 400 men joined him. He was killed and nothing came of his movement and the group dispersed. Likewise, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census and drew away some men after him, but he too perished and all those who followed him were scattered. Therefore, Gamaliel urged them to stay away from these men and let them alone. If the plan of the apostles was from men,

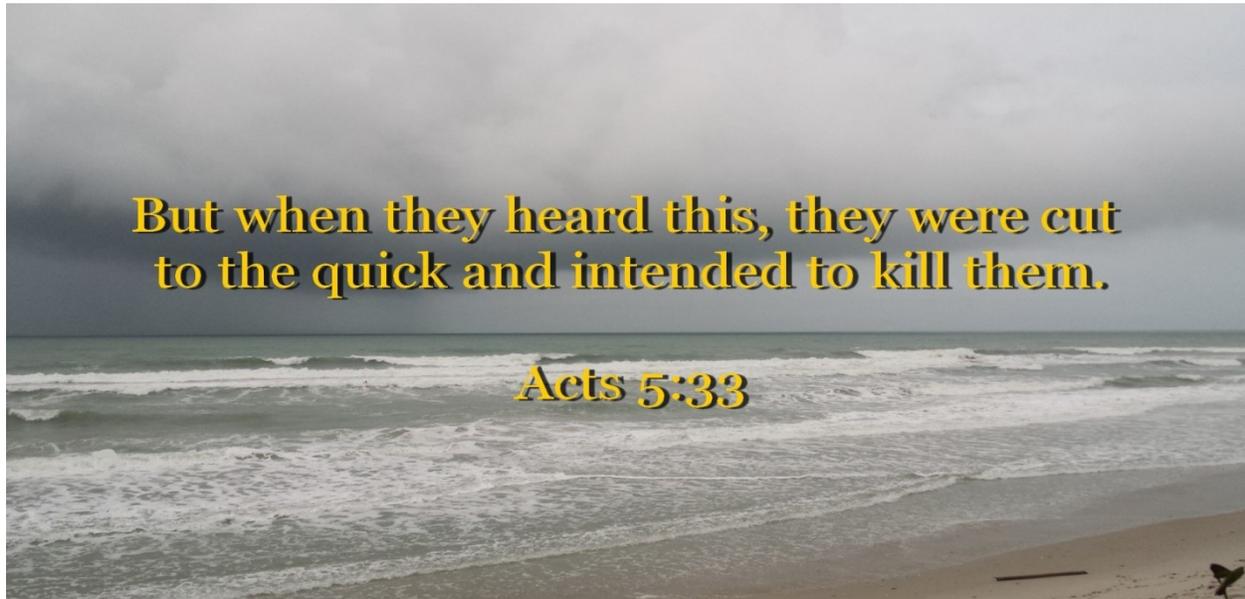
then it will be overthrown. If it is of God, then the Council will not be able to overthrow them and they may even be found fighting against God.

The Council took Gamaliel's advice, sort of. After calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the Name of Jesus, and then released them. So, they went on their way from the Council, rejoicing that Jesus considered them worthy to suffer shame for His Name. Every day in the Temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 169

Heard Today



How did the religious Council respond to the apostles? The religious Council wanted to kill the apostles.

The apostles boldly proclaimed to the religious Council that they were guilty of hanging Jesus, the son of God, on the cross. The apostles also declared that God the Father had exalted Jesus to His right hand as a Prince and Savior.

The apostles also explained that the Holy Spirit was given to everyone who obeyed God. The Holy Spirit opposed the religious Council, but empowered the apostles. The apostles proved beyond a shadow of doubt that the religious Council opposed the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and killed Jesus, the Messiah of Israel.

The words of the apostles, given to them by the Holy Spirit, cut the religious Council. Like an arrow penetrating their hearts, they were enraged when they should have repented. They continued to reject God and His plans and rejected Jesus, the Cornerstone.

Cut to the Quick

1. **When**. What happened when the apostles answered the religious Council? The religious Council wanted to kill the apostles.

2. **They**. They heard the truth spoken with the authority of God in the words of the apostles standing before the religious Council.

3. **Heard**. The words of the apostles penetrated the hearts of the religious Council when they heard them.

4. **Cut**. The words of the apostles cut the religious Council and it truly hurt them.

5. **Intended**. The religious Council was so hurt by the words of the apostles that they formed an immediate intention to kill the apostles. The words had struck home, but instead of repentance, the words provoked violence.

6. **Kill**. Living holy in the family of God means that some people want to kill the messengers of God for the truth they told to ears that did not want to hear the message of God.

7. **Them**. We rejoice today because people hear the truth and some people respond to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with repentance and faith. Others hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and want to kill the messengers of God who told them the truth.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the apostles who told the truth and faced a religious group intending to kill them.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding the violent reaction the Gospel of Jesus Christ triggers in some people and groups.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that Jesus gave His life so that we would not face the wrath of God and eternal death.**

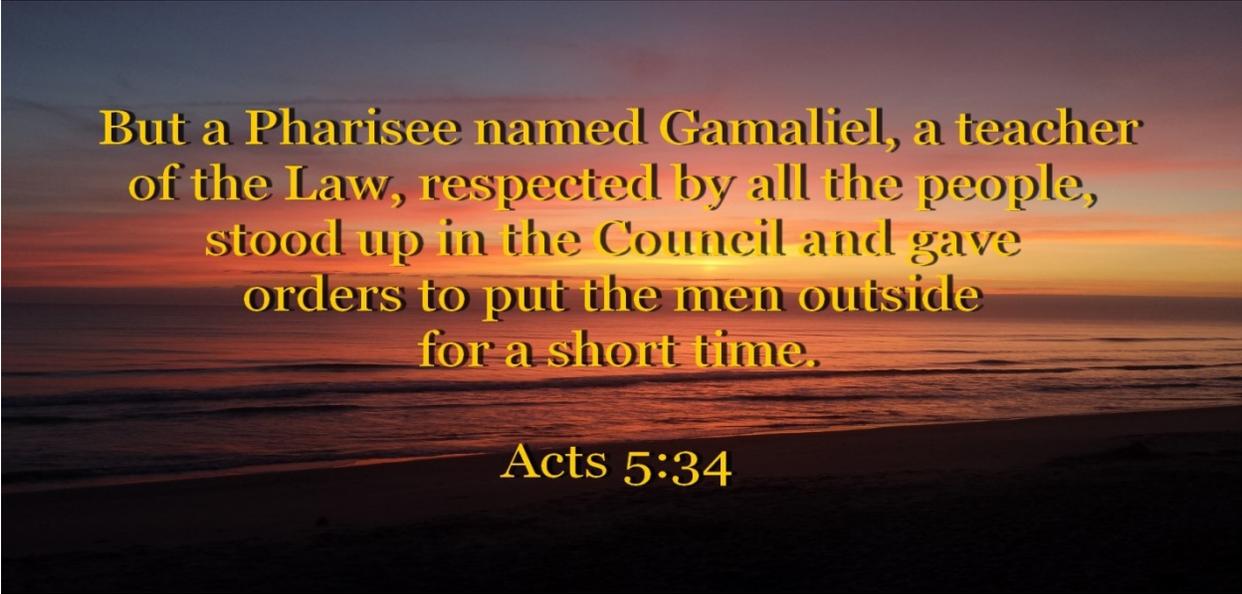
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by expecting that some people will have a violent, hateful reaction to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, knowing that some people may have violent reactions to hearing about Jesus and the blood on their hands?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 170

Gamaliel Today



But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the Law, respected by all the people, stood up in the Council and gave orders to put the men outside for a short time.

Acts 5:34

Who was Gamaliel? Gamaliel was a teacher of the law and a Pharisee and a member of the religious Council.

Gamaliel brought a breath of fresh air to the religious Council. He was respected by all the people. He stood up in the religious Council and gave orders for the apostles to be put outside for a short time.

Gamaliel had the courage to stand up to the entire Council. As we will see, Gamaliel offered a different point of view about the apostles. Everyone in Jerusalem, including the religious Council, knew about the miracles God was doing in the multitudes turning to Christ. The evidence was simply overwhelming that God was at work in Jerusalem and using the apostles to do His will.

The apostles fearlessly indicted the religious Council for crucifying Jesus. The apostles indicated that God gave the Holy Spirit to everybody who obeyed Him. Anyone on the religious Council could turn to Jesus Christ as Savior. The only question was would any of them be willing to recognize Jesus and believe in Him as the Savior of the world.

Stood

1. **But**. Who stood up after the apostles spoke? Gamaliel stood up and addressed the religious Council as one of their own.

2. **Pharisee**. As a Pharisee, Gamaliel was a teacher of the Law and believed in the resurrection, the afterlife, and angels, which the Sadducees denied.

3. **Gamaliel**. Gamaliel did not want to kill the apostles on the spot, but spoke up for the religious Council to take a deep breath for a moment.

4. **Council**. As a member of the religious Council, Gamaliel had authority as a religious leader, personally respected by the people.

5. **Orders**. Gamaliel gave orders for the apostles to be removed from the religious Council.

6. **Outside**. Living holy in the family of God means that God has people on religious Councils who will stand against the flood of emotions filled with hatred for saints who proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

7. **Time**. We rejoice today because Gamaliel was granted a short time to speak to the religious Council and tried to persuade them to consider the evidence before the Council concerning the apostles and the activity of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Gamaliel the Pharisee.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking time to consider the evidence before we let our emotions make bad decisions for us.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by listening to people speak calmly for a short time with a calm voice in the midst of heated emotions seeking violent actions.**

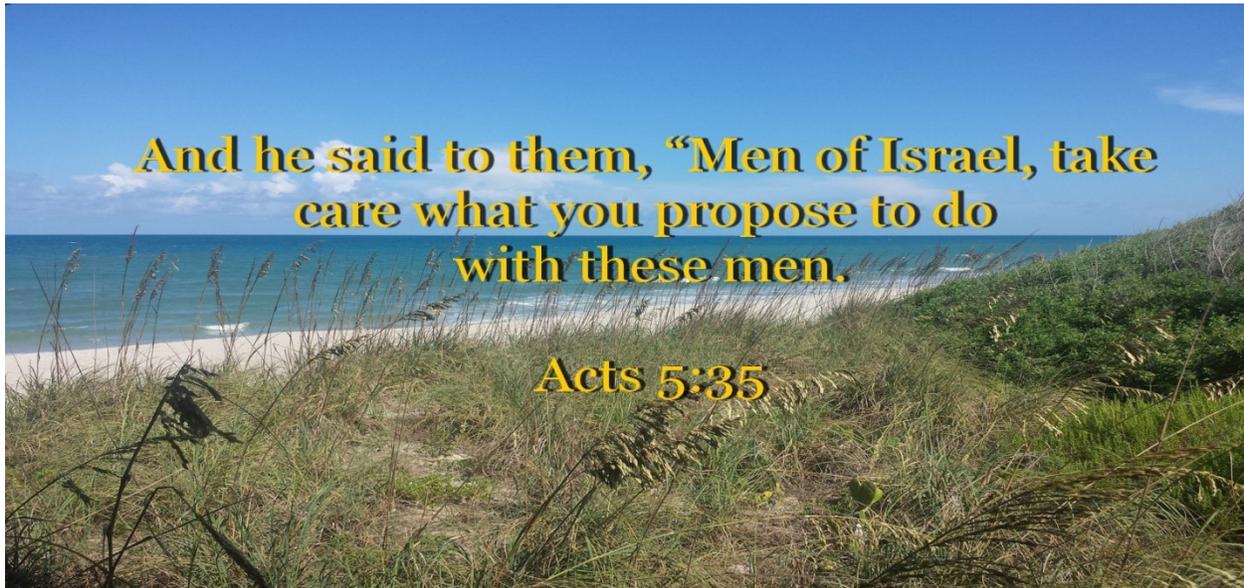
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by speaking up for Jesus, even when the group has already made up its mind to oppose the work of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by doing what is right in the sight of God and not bowing to the demands of a group opposed to God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 171

Take Care Today



Who was the only voice of reason on the religious Council? Gamaliel stood up and told the religious Council to take care regarding the apostles.

Gamaliel was a Pharisee and respected by the people. He taught the Law and studied it carefully. When he talked, some people listened. The religious Council had already arrested the apostles. Gamaliel knew they must be acting out of jealousy towards the apostles.

Standing up against a Council requires some courage and conviction. Being the voice of reason in the midst of passion often means opposition will arise against you. You may become the new target of violence.

Gamaliel stood up as a Council member and urged the religious Council to be careful regarding what they proposed to do with the apostles. Gamaliel had watched the anger and passion of the Council members and knew they intended to silence the apostles one way or another.

Gamaliel also knew something else. He knew that God may be supporting those apostles. Everyone had seen the signs and wonders and

miracles that God was performing in Jerusalem and the crowds of people glorifying God for the work done among them. Gamaliel would not join the other Council members in ignoring the evidence of God's work.

Propose

1. **Men**. What advice did Gamaliel offer the religious Council? Gamaliel advised the men of Israel to act with great care.

2. **Israel**. As the leaders of Israel, they should be doing the will of God concerning the people of Israel.

3. **Care**. Gamaliel urged great care in determining what to do with the apostles.

4. **You**. Gamaliel said that you propose to take action against the apostles, but that action must be carefully considered.

5. **Propose**. At this point, the religious Council must take great care what they would propose to do with the apostles.

6. **Do**. Living holy in the family of God means that the religious Council was deciding what to do with the apostles, but God had already decided what to do with the religious Council and its members.

7. **Men**. We rejoice today because the men of the religious Council heard from Gamaliel, a voice of reason, to wait and see what might happen with the apostles.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by urging people acting on passions to stop and carefully consider the matter.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that some very religious people will be split among themselves as to the best course of action.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that His plans always come to pass and His words never fail.**

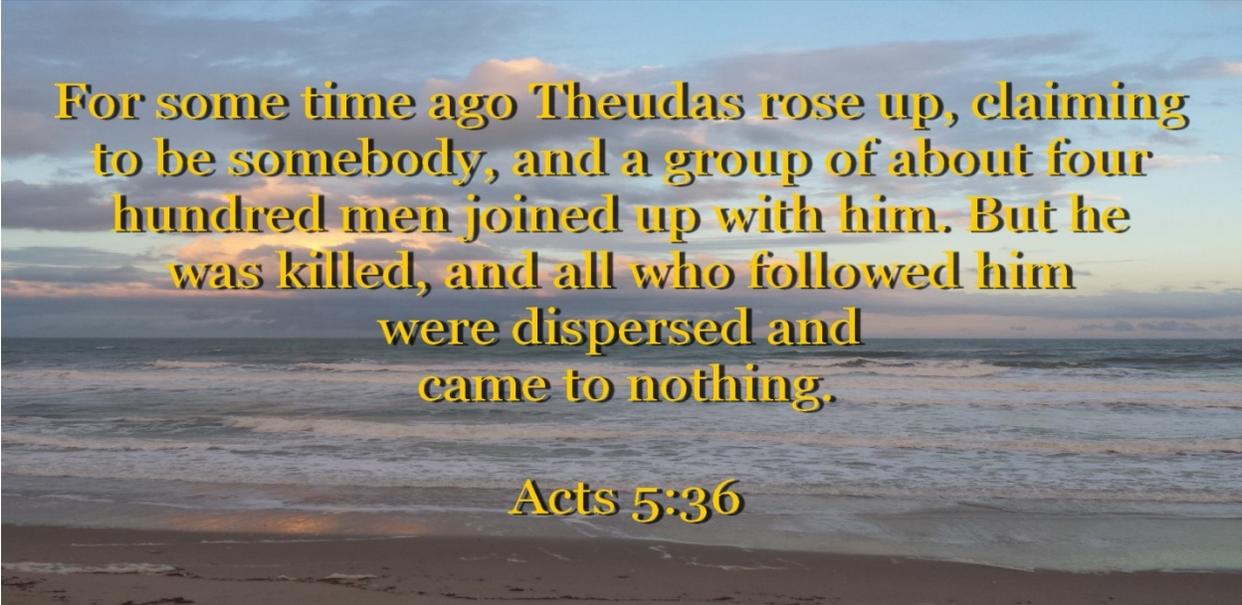
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by looking to God for guidance, so that we do not oppose His plans. Will you live holy in the family of God today by listening to God and His leading rather than the voice of religious men opposed to God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 172

Theudas Today



For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a group of about four hundred men joined up with him. But he was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing.

Acts 5:36

How did Gamaliel support his plea for caution? Gamaliel cited history.

Gamaliel started with Theudas, who rose up and claimed to be somebody. A group of about four hundred men joined him. Gamaliel then pointed out that he was killed and everyone who followed him dispersed and it all came to nothing.

Gamaliel was also arguing for time. By citing the example of Theudas, Gamaliel inferred that the religious Council should not make hasty decisions about the apostles. He implied that giving some time for things to play out may result in the group coming to nothing and dispersing. In fact, the apostles may disperse or be killed and their influence would cease.

Gamaliel stood as a lone voice citing history and urging caution. Even so, he knew that very special things were taking place in Jerusalem and multitudes were affected. The Council had already refrained from violence against the apostles because they were afraid the soldiers would be stoned by the multitudes. The only question remained: would the religious Council listen to Gamaliel and his advice?

Only time would tell. The religious Council, however, wanted swift action because of the power of the apostles growing day by day.

Dispersed

1. **Theudas**. Who was Theudas? Gamaliel cited the example of Theudas, a man who created a following in Israel.

2. **Claiming**. Theudas was claiming that he was somebody, and attracted followers.

3. **Somebody**. Although Theudas claimed to be somebody, you are ultimately a nobody unless God makes you somebody in the family of God.

4. **Four Hundred**. Four hundred people followed Theudas for a time.

5. **Killed**. Theudas was killed and then his movement fell apart.

6. **Dispersed**. Living holy in the family of God means that groups built around a single man claiming to be someone fall apart and disperse once that man dies.

7. **Nothing**. We rejoice today because nothing comes from following one man, but people who follow Jesus know God and they receive every blessing in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the example of Theudas.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by avoiding following one man; we must follow God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving God for providing Jesus, our Savior and Lord, and through Him we come to the Father and are filled with the Holy Spirit.**

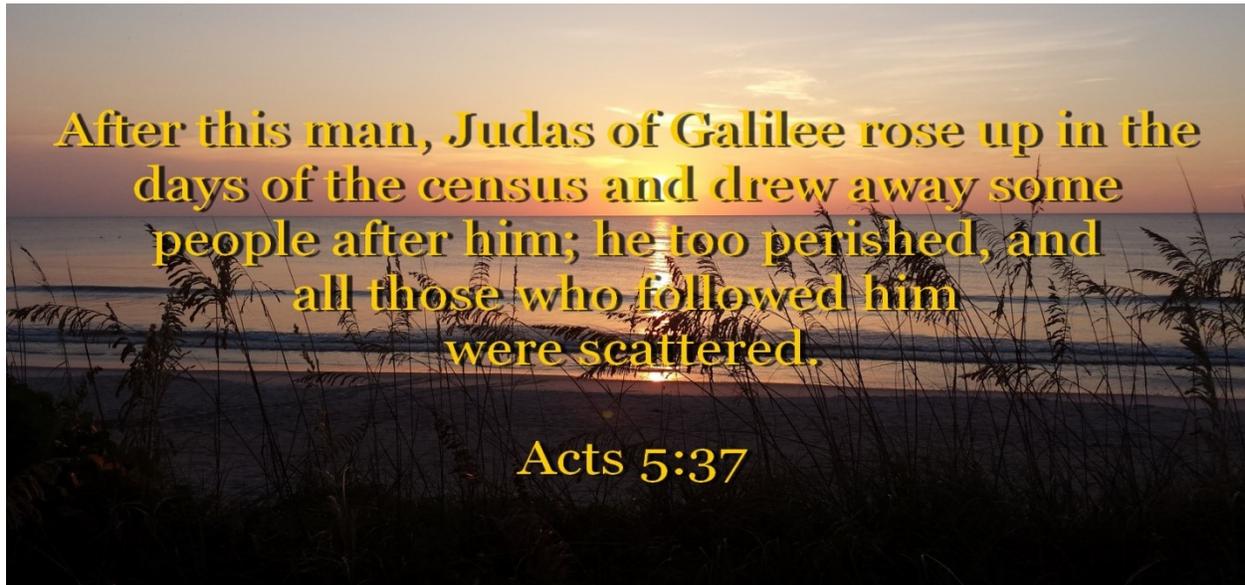
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving Jesus, because salvation only comes through the Lord Jesus Christ and no one else. Will you live holy in the family of God today by keeping your eyes upon Jesus and following Him without distractions?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 173

Judas of Galilee Today



What other example did Gamaliel cite? Gamaliel also recalled Judas of Galilee who rose up in the days of the census.

You may recall that Jesus was born during the days of the census and his parents went to Bethlehem, the city of David, to be registered for the census. Therefore, Judas of Galilee apparently arose more than 30 years previously.

Gamaliel explained that Judas of Galilee also died and those who followed him were dispersed and scattered. Therefore, Judas of Galilee provided another example of letting a group and its leader dwindle away after the death of its leader.

Gamaliel cited the examples of men who died and their followers were scattered. Gamaliel was essentially urging the religious Council to wait and see what happened with the apostles and all that was going on in Jerusalem. God was at work in Jerusalem and no one could deny it.

Gamaliel focused upon the leaders. Letting time pass exposed the leaders as frauds and they died. Thereafter the groups dispersed and the trouble ceased. At times, giving more time may be a timely solution.

Scattered

1. **After**. Who came after Theudas? Judas of Galilee arose after Theudas.

2. **Rose Up**. Judas of Galilee, in the days of the census, rose up and started a new following.

3. **Judas**. Judas of Galilee attracted men to follow him.

4. **Census**. You may recall that Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the days of the census.

5. **Drew**. Judas of Galilee also established a following of men in the days of the census.

6. **Perished**. Living holy in the family of God means that people who follow men like Judas of Galilee will have problems when that man dies. Following Jesus means that when He died, He gave His life so that His followers who believed in Him would have eternal life. When Jesus was resurrected, He triumphed over death and He will never leave His followers.

7. **Scattered**. We rejoice today because unlike the followers of Judas of Galilee, Jesus of Nazareth gathers all His sheep to Him and remains their eternal Shepherd who knows the name of each one of His sheep and calls them by name.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Judas of Galilee.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising Jesus that He always takes care of His followers and they have eternal life by faith in Him.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God and not following men.**

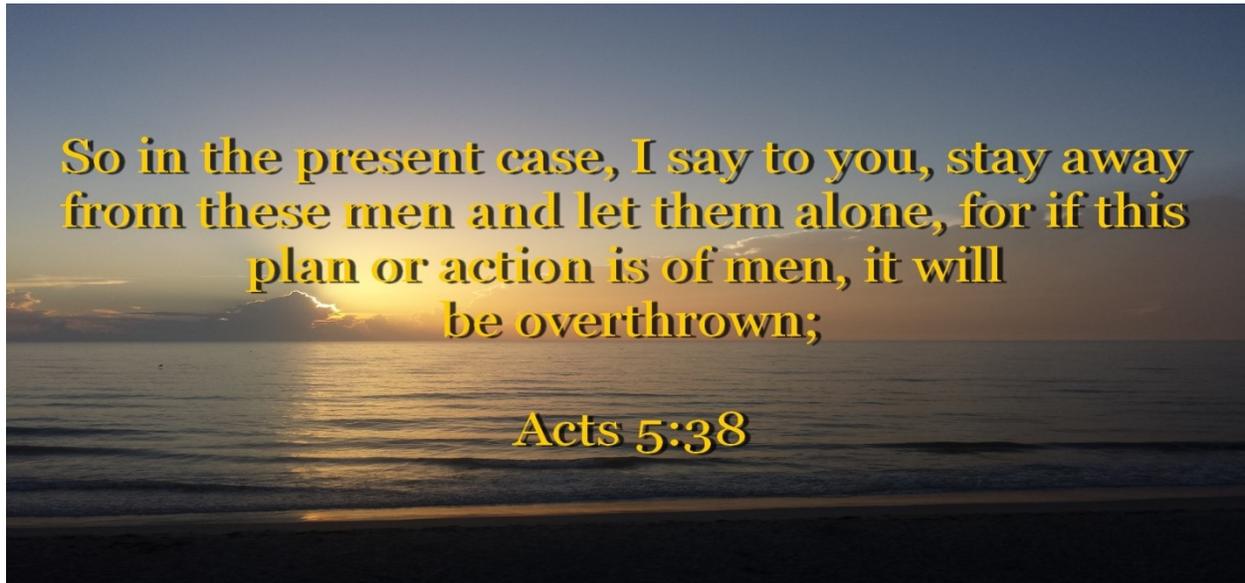
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving Jesus who first loved us and called us to Himself. Will you live holy in the family of God today by following Jesus, the only way, the only truth, and the only life and remembering that no one comes to the Father but through Jesus?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 174

Stay Away Today



What did Gamaliel say about the apostles? Gamaliel told the religious Council to stay away from those men.

After citing the experience of Theudas and Judas of Galilee, Gamaliel urged the Council to stay away from the apostles and to leave them alone. History showed that when the leader dies, the followers are dispersed upon his death.

Gamaliel made another excellent point. He explained that if the things going on in Jerusalem were only of men, then things would quickly resolve. Gamaliel meant that if the plan or action were only of men, then it would be overthrown. Notice that Gamaliel left the door open about whether the things going on were of men or from God.

Gamaliel understood that the religious Council acted out of spite and jealousy towards the apostles. Multitudes of people were flocking to the apostles as they taught and preached in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If the movement was merely of men, and not of God, then history demonstrated that such movements quickly faded out after the death of the leader. If the movement was of God, then no one should oppose it.

Overthrown

1. **Case**. What outcome did Gamaliel seek? He sought time to find out if the apostles were acting for God or only as men.

2. **Say**. Gamaliel was bold: I say to you. Gamaliel stood up and urged the religious Council to take time to see how things would play out with the apostles.

3. **Stay**. Gamaliel specifically cautioned the religious Council to stay away from the apostles.

4. **Men**. By staying away from those men, time would tell if things were happening under the direction of men or of God.

5. **Alone**. By leaving the apostles alone, the movement may die on its own accord, as happened with Theudas and Judas of Galilee.

6. **Men**. Living holy in the family of God means that if the people follow men, and not God, then the movement will come to nothing.

7. **Overthrown**. We rejoice today because while the movements of men will be overthrown in time, the plans of God and His words remain forever and no one can overthrow Jesus or His eternal kingdom.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding the movements and the plans of men will be overthrown in time.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that His plans and movements never fail.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the eternal blessings we have in Jesus who sits at the right hand of God until His enemies have been made a footstool for His feet.**

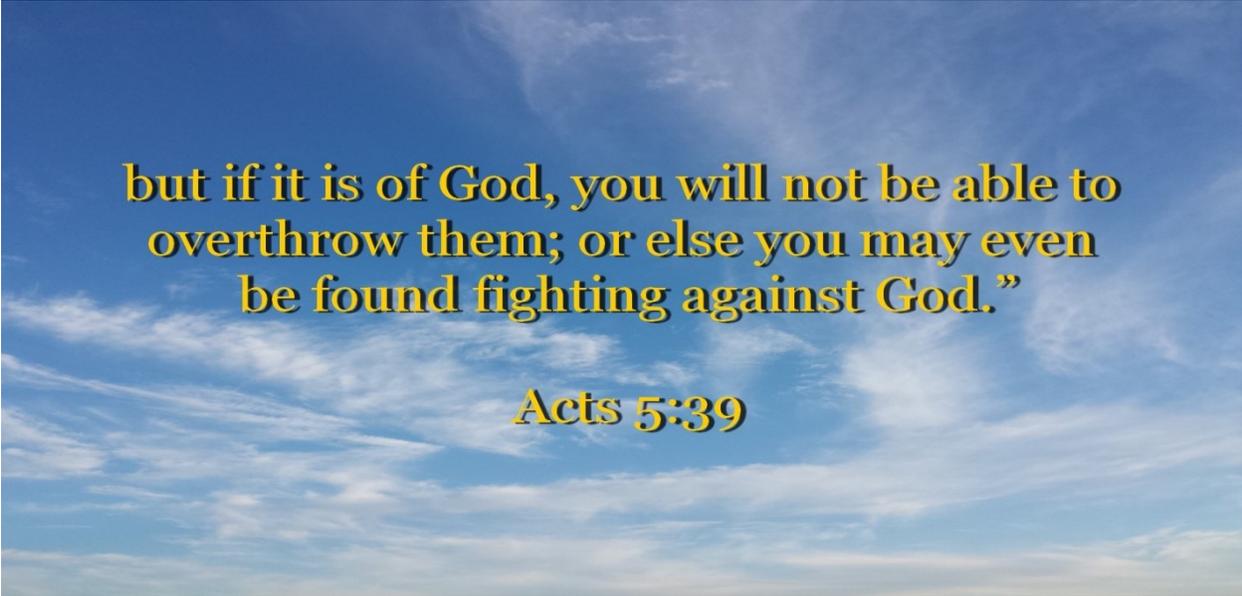
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by looking to Jesus to sustain us when the followers of men fall along the way. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising Jesus for His eternal presence in our lives?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 175

Overthrow Them Today



but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God.”

Acts 5:39

How did Gamaliel get the religious Council to consider that God was at work through the apostles? Gamaliel reminded the Council that if the movement was of God, then the religious Council was fighting against God.

The religious Council was so determined to punish the apostles that they never seriously considered that the apostles were acting for God. If the apostles were acting for God and preaching and teaching in the Name of Lord Jesus Christ, then the religious Council was on the wrong side of the fight, because they were opposing God.

Gamaliel injected a wait-and-see approach. Rather than rush forward with their own human plans, Gamaliel exhorted the religious Council to consider something they had steadfastly ignored. That same Council condemned Jesus to death because they were jealous of Jesus like they were jealous of the apostles and the work they performed in the Name of God.

The religious Council had a history of making terrible decisions opposed to God and His ways. Even so, God caused Gamaliel to stand up and

tell them to leave the apostles alone. If God it sent those apostles, then why was the religious Council fighting against God?

Against God

1. **God.** What did Gamaliel say about God? Gamaliel said if the things happening in Jerusalem were from God, then the religious Council was making a huge mistake by opposing God and His work.

2. **Able.** Gamaliel also explained that if God were at work through the apostles, then the religious Council would not be able to stop the power of God.

3. **Overthrow.** In fact, the religious Council would be unable to overthrow the work of God through the apostles.

4. **Else.** Gamaliel warned the religious Council: “else you may even be found fighting against God.”

5. **Found.** Found fighting against God would always be a losing position.

6. **Fighting.** Living holy in the family of God means that all men who fight against God and His plans will face certain ruin.

7. **God.** We rejoice today because God always triumphs over everyone who fights against Him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by taking care never to fight against God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by never opposing the work of God, because no one will be able to overthrow the family of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting God to carry out His will in our lives, no matter who opposes us and tries to overthrow the work of God.**

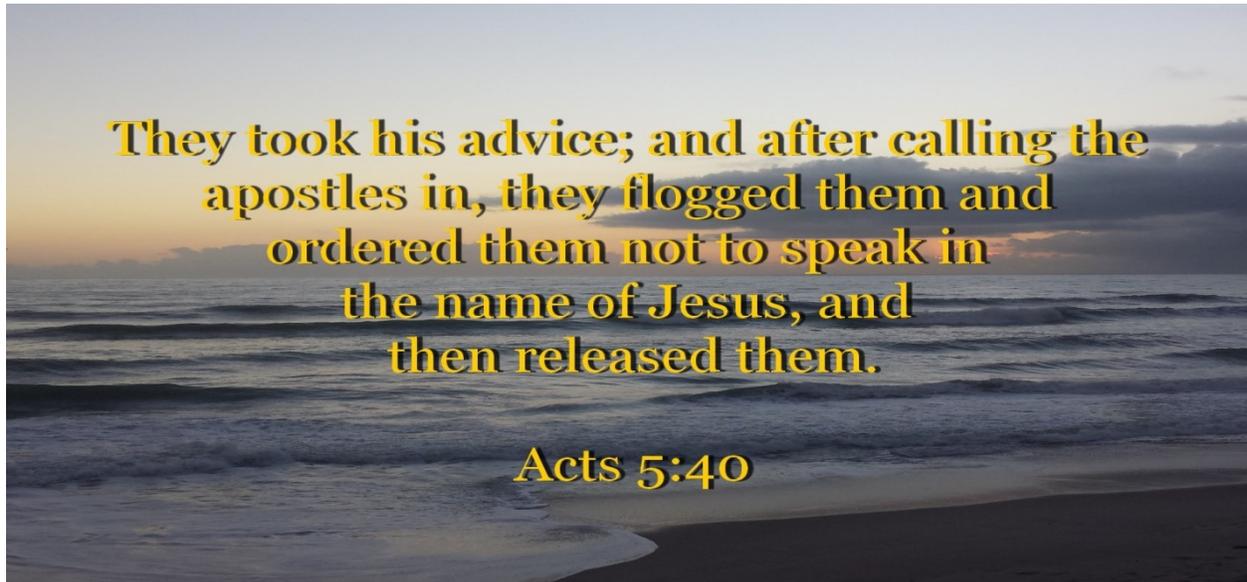
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by following Jesus, even when people scheme to overthrow the work of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by counting upon God to fight against all those people who fight against God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 176

Flogged Today



What did the Council do with Gamaliel's advice? The religious Council accepted the advice of Gamaliel.

While the religious Council accepted the advice of Gamaliel, they still punished the apostles by flogging them, hitting them with sticks or whips. Such physical punishment demonstrated the hatred of the religious Council for the apostles.

The religious Council also ordered the apostles not to speak in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They had ordered the apostles not to speak in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ before, but the apostles immediately responded that they could not stop speaking about Jesus and preaching and teaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, they accepted the counsel of Gamaliel to release the apostles, but the religious Council still punished the apostles. Gamaliel urged the religious Council to wait and see if God was working with the apostles or not. By flogging the apostles and ordering them to stop speaking and the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, they still opposed the will of God. In fact, the

religious Council still feared the multitudes praising God because of the things the apostles had done in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Released

1. **Took**. What did the religious Council do with the apostles? They took Gamaliel's advice about releasing them, but not before they punished the apostles.

2. **Advice**. Gamaliel advised the religious Council to take a wait and see approach with the apostles.

3. **Flogged**. The religious Council flogged the apostles before releasing them.

4. **Ordered**. The religious Council also ordered the apostles to cease speaking about Jesus.

5. **Speak**. The religious Council forbade the apostles from speaking about Jesus.

6. **Name**. Living holy in the family of God means that the religious Council opposed the Name of Jesus, because they understood the apostles were not promoting themselves, but Jesus, as Savior.

7. **Released**. We rejoice today because the apostles were released, but they were harmed and harassed.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that some religious people try to silence everyone who speaks about Jesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that some believers will suffer beatings for speaking about Jesus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that the apostles remained free to continue their ministry for Jesus.**

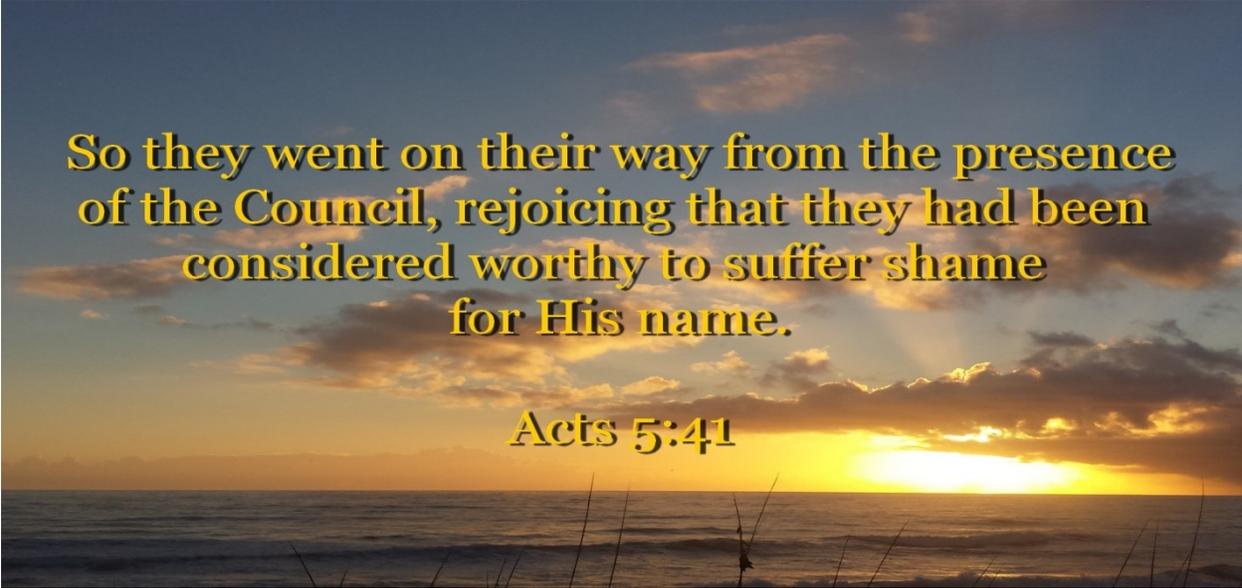
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving Jesus for suffering beatings and crucifixion for us and our sins. Will you live holy in the family of God today by supporting the saints who suffer beatings for speaking up about Jesus?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 177

Rejoicing Today



So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.

Acts 5:41

Why were the apostles rejoicing? The apostles were rejoicing because they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The apostles considered it something of an honor to suffer shame for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They were flogged because of their testimony for Christ. They suffered just like Christ suffered. Their bodies carried the marks of that suffering.

The apostles also had a close identification with Christ. They knew that by opposing the religious Council trouble would be coming their way. That same religious Council had put Jesus to death by crucifixion. The apostles knew what the religious Council was capable of doing.

The apostles also knew about the deliverance to God it provided through the angel. They obeyed the angel and went right back to the Temple at daybreak to proclaim the whole message of this Life. Therefore, when they were arrested and flogged, they knew they were suffering persecution because of their testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ. In that sense, they had

joined the suffering which they saw in the Lord Jesus Christ at the hands of very evil men.

Worthy

1. **They**. How did the apostles feel after being released by the religious Council? They left rejoicing.

2. **Went**. The apostles went away from the religious Council after being freed and warned not to speak any more in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. **Way**. The apostles went their way, following the path Jesus prepared for them to walk.

4. **Rejoicing**. As the apostles went away, they were rejoicing. They were not only rejoicing that they were free, but they were rejoicing for a far more important reason.

5. **Worthy**. The apostles understood that God considered them worthy to suffer for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. **Shame**. Living holy in the family of God means that God considers some of the saints worthy to suffer shame for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Name**. We rejoice today because the Name of the Lord Jesus will always be worthy of suffering shame from evil forces opposed to the work of Jesus Christ as Savior.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the rejoicing of the apostles that God considered them worthy to suffer for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His mercies by preserving the apostles so that they could help the church grow and spread all over the world.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by looking back at the apostles and thanking God they were faithful servants, even when beaten and threatened for speaking in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

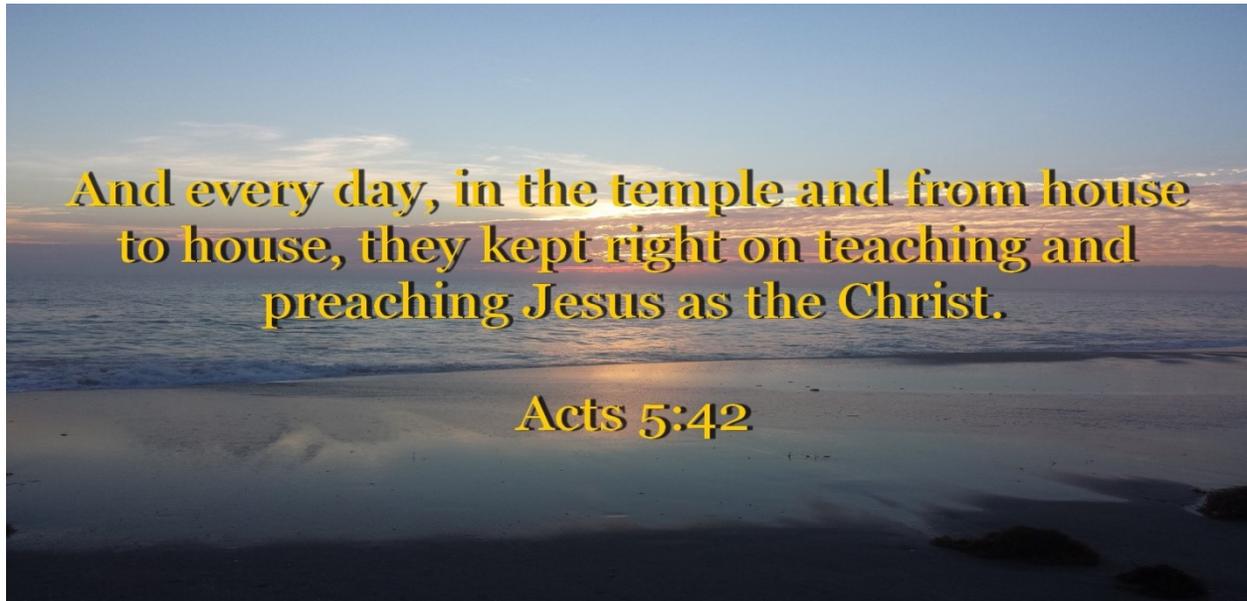
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the apostles and their courageous stand for Jesus Christ in Jerusalem. Will you live holy in the family of God today by standing up for Jesus Christ where you live?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 178

Every Day Today



What did the apostles do with their freedom? They kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Twice the religious Council arrested them and twice the religious Council had ordered them to stop teaching and preaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The apostles knew that the Lord Jesus was resurrected and that they were His witnesses. Jesus had commanded them to testify in His Name and empowered them through the Holy Spirit Who indwelt them.

The apostles never flinched for a moment. They never promised the Council, as a condition of release from arrest, that they would stop speaking or teaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. With great boldness, the apostles continued teaching and preaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The apostles did their teaching and preaching every day. They did not go into hiding after being arrested twice by the religious Council and flogged at least once. The apostles did their teaching in the Temple and from house

to house. They continued speaking openly in the Temple where everyone could hear them and see them. Multitudes had been gathering to them. They also were preaching and teaching from home to home, encouraging the saints in smaller groups.

Preaching

1. **Every**. How did the apostles spend their time after release? They continued their ministry in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. **Day**. Day by day they spent time preaching and teaching people and ministering in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. **Temple**. The apostles were teaching and preaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple.

4. **House**. The apostles also were teaching and preaching from house to house among the saints.

5. **Teaching**. The apostles continued their teaching ministry, helping the saints learn more about Jesus Christ.

6. **Preaching**. Living holy in the family of God means that apostles continued preaching also, proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

7. **Jesus**. We rejoice today because the apostles did not obey the order of the religious Council to stop speaking and teaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, but continued their ministry as the Lord Jesus Christ led them and the Holy Spirit filled them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by continuing to minister for Jesus despite the commands to stop.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by ministering to people in public gatherings and from house to house.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by never living by the commands of men when they conflict with the commands of God.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by continuing to minister in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ in public meetings and from house to house. Will you live holy in the family of God today by continuing to serve Jesus and not giving up as opposition rises?

HALLELUJAH !

Conclusion

The opening chapters of the Book of Acts provide a detailed revelation of the early church. Jesus ascended to heaven, leaving His 11 disciples behind who had to select a replacement for Judas Iscariot, settling upon Matthias.

Shortly thereafter, at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles like a rushing wind. They began speaking in tongues and God used that event for Peter to preach his first sermon filled with the Holy Spirit and thousands were saved. The church began to grow and they held all things in common.

As God blessed the church so that many people came to know His love and salvation, the religious authorities began a backlash against them. Just as they had persecuted Jesus and crucified Him, so they all so targeted the apostles. James and John healed the Beautiful Beggar and the religious authorities began the persecution of the apostles. The more they proclaimed Christ and worked miracles in His Name, the more the religious authorities opposed them and persecuted them. Try as the religious enemies might to stop the spread of Christianity, Jesus continued to build His church in Jerusalem.

Within the church problems also arose. A couple sold some land and lied to Peter about the sale price. The couple had schemed together to withhold some money, but pretended that they gave all of it to the apostles. They were under no obligation to sell their land or to give all the money to the apostles. By lying about the sale price, they not only lied to Peter, but they also lied to the Holy Spirit and they paid with their lives. From that time forward great fear fell upon the congregation at Jerusalem. Great signs and wonders were taking place through the hands of the apostles and Jesus brought many people to Himself during the early days of the church. The Jews continued to persecute the apostles and repeatedly tried to silence them one way or another. Even so, they continued their work for the Lord Jesus Christ.

HALLELUJAH !