

HOW TO HANDLE PERSECUTION — ACTS 4:1-32

To be Victorious Over Persecution

1 BE SUBMISSIVE

— ATTITUDE

4:1-7

- Imprisoning the apostles did not nullify their effect. It did not prevent the progress of the Gospel.
- Instead of destroying the church, persecution brought growth. Do not avoid it, God is going to bring you to maturity.
- If we suffer persecution we ought to be joyful, because it will make us grow, and it will reach others for Christ.
- We must make the commitment to obey, and think of our lives as expendable.
- Persecution opens avenues that are not opened any other way. They submitted, and God put them right where He wanted them.

2 BE SPIRIT-FILLED

— AUTHORITY

4:8

- Peter had already taken the steps to be Spirit-filled, because he was obedient.
- The filling of the Spirit is simply when a believer walks in obedience to the Word.
- The key to the Christian life is the power of the Holy Spirit. There is no other way to victory.

3 BOLDLY USE IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PREACH THE GOSPEL

— ACCESSIBLE

4:9-13

- Even in the presence of the Sanhedrin they did not back off concerning Christ and the resurrection.
- The prophecy (v.11) simply says Jesus will be the cornerstone, but the builders would reject it, thinking it was imperfect, but God would bring it back, and make it the corner.
- How can you explain two unlearned amateurs handling a disputation with the Jewish high supreme court?

4 BE OBEDIENT TO GOD AT ALL COSTS

— ACTION

4:14-22

- It is interesting that the early church had to be commanded to be quiet, and the modern church has to be commanded to speak.
- We do not see Peter and John trying to play it cool and get out of there. They kept pointing out that they are opposing God.

5 BIND YOURSELVES CLOSER TOGETHER

— AFFILIATION

4:23

- They got together with their friends. Persecution drives believers together.



6 BLESSED THE LORD

— ADORATION

4:24-28

- They acknowledged God as the Creator. God made everything and “created” this opportunity to share Christ.
- The apostles came back rejoicing to be counted worthy to suffer for Jesus.
- Satan may turn on persecution, but God turns it around to His glory and purposes.

7 BESEECH GOD FOR GREATER BOLDNESS

— ACQUIRE

4:29-32

- They seek more boldness so they can go back and speak again.
- In essence, they are asking God for more power to use for His glory. Do you think God will answer a prayer like that?