

# SPREAD THE WORD

A SERIES IN ACTS

**Bold Witness**

**Acts 3:1-31**

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bethel *community*  
CHURCH

# Bold Witness



# Bold Witness

## Bold Witness

**Acts 3:1-22** And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, 2 greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. 4 But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. -

## Bold Witness

5 On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, 6 with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, 9 if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, -

## Bold Witness

10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. 11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” -

## Bold Witness

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. 14 But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. 15 But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, -



## Bold Witness

16 saying, “What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.-  
17 But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” 18 So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. -

## Bold Witness

19 But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, 20 for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.” 21 And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. 22 For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old. (ESV)

# Bold Witness

# Bold Witness

I. Trusting fully in the risen Christ instills courage.

A. Being a witness of Christ creates controversy.

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# Bold Witness

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A. Being a witness of Christ creates controversy.

- *John 15:18-21 “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you: A servant is not greater than his master.” -*

# Bold Witness

- I. Trusting fully in the risen Christ instills courage.
- A. Being a witness of Christ creates controversy.
  - *If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. 21 But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.*

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- I. Trusting fully in the risen Christ instills courage.
- A. Being a witness of Christ creates controversy.
  - *John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”*



# Bold Witness

- I. Trusting fully in the risen Christ instills courage.
- B. Being a witness of Christ creates criticism.

*5 On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, 6 with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?”*

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I. Trusting fully in the risen Christ instills courage.

C. Being a witness of Christ creates conflict.

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“Rulers of the people and elders, 9 if we are being examined  
today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by  
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# Bold Witness

- I. Trusting fully in the risen Christ instills courage.
- C. Being a witness of Christ creates conflict.
  - As believers we all have the Holy Spirit.
  - *Titus 3:5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,*
  - As believers we are all to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.
  - As believers the Holy Spirit enables us to speak with conviction.

# Bold Witness

## II. Experiencing personally the risen Christ promotes boldness.

A. Spending time with Christ causes transformation in our lives.

*13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. 14 But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. -*

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B. Spending time with Christ compels us to boldly proclaim Him to others.

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22 For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.*

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B. Spending time with Christ compels us to boldly proclaim Him to others.

- *1 John 1:1-3 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and -*

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- *proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

# Bold Witness

III. Uniting corporately in prayer displays strength.

A. In corporate prayer we focus on God's sovereignty and omnipotence.

*23 When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. 24 And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, 25 who through the mouth of our father David, your -*

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A. In corporate prayer we focus on God's sovereignty and omnipotence.

*servant, said by the Holy Spirit, “Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? 26 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’—*

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III. Uniting corporately in prayer displays strength.

A. In corporate prayer we focus on God's sovereignty and omnipotence.

- *Psalm 146:6-10 who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; 7 who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; 8 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. 9 The -*

# Bold Witness

III. Uniting corporately in prayer displays strength.

A. In corporate prayer we focus on God's sovereignty and omnipotence.

- *Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. 10 The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord!*

# Bold Witness

III. Uniting corporately in prayer displays strength.

B. In corporate prayer we commit ourselves to God's plans and purposes.

*27 for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.*



# Bold Witness

III. Uniting corporately in prayer displays strength.

C. In corporate prayer we ask God to empower us to be bold witnesses.

*29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,  
30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” -*

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III. Uniting corporately in prayer displays strength.

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*31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.*

# Bold Witness

III. Uniting corporately in prayer displays strength.

C. In corporate prayer we ask God to empower us to be bold witnesses.

- Faith in divine sovereignty does not limit human responsibility.
- Pray for boldness, not just protection.
- *“Do not pray for easy lives, pray to be stronger men and women.”* Phillip Brooks

# Bold Witness

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**We become bold witnesses for Christ when we:  
trust in His resurrection,  
experience His presence,  
and corporately petition Him to empower us.**

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