

ADOPTING THE AUDACIOUS ATTITUDE OF THE APOSTLES

Parts 6-7 of Foundations 260. Acts 2-11.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. February 23, 2025.

PENTECOSTAL POWER FOR PROCLAMATION

The Holy Spirit launched the Christian movement.

- 120 experienced Pentecostal power for proclamation, as promised:

Acts 1:8 (CSB) "... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

THE AUDACIOUS ATTITUDE THAT ADVANCED CHRISTIANITY

Acts 2-11 reveals that the new Christian movement grew rapidly due to:

- The audacious attitude of the apostles and others. They would not shut up.
- Luke wants us to know that all Christians are fueled by the Spirit to preach, proclaim, teach, and share the good news about Jesus.

A REVIEW OF ACTS 2-6

Acts 2:1-13: The 120 disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and they "*declared the magnificent acts of God*" (verse 11) to a large crowd in the city.

Acts 2:14-41: The apostle Peter called the large crowd of listeners to "*repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins*" (v. 38).

Acts 3:1-10: Peter said to a lame man, "*In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk*" (v. 6).

Acts 3:11-26: Peter preached Jesus in the Temple precincts: "*The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, has glorified his servant Jesus*" (verse 13).

Acts 4:5-22: Peter was undaunted by the politicians and proclaimed Jesus: *“There is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved”* (verse 12).

When the leaders told Peter and John to stop spreading the Christian message, and threatened to punish them, they replied: *“Whether it’s right in the sight of God for us to listen to you rather than to God, you decide; 20 for we are unable to stop speaking about what we have seen and heard”* (verses 19-20).

Acts 4:23-31: The Christians prayed together: *“consider their threats, and grant that your servants may speak your word with all BOLDNESS ...”*

Acts 5:17-32: When asked why they had not stopped preaching Jesus, Peter and the apostles did not mince words. They preached Jesus: *“God exalted this man to his right hand as ruler and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins”* (verse 31).

Acts 6:1-7: The rationale for deacons was: *“It would not be right for us to give up preaching the word of God to wait on tables”* (verse 2) Also: *“We will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word”* (verse 4).

The results were: *“So the word of God spread, the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly in number, and a large group of priests became obedient to the faith”* (verse 7).

Acts 7: Stephen preach that Jesus is the exalted Lord of heaven, *“Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”* (56).

Acts 8:1-12: Philip proclaimed the Messiah (verse 5): *“he proclaimed the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ”* (verse 12).

Acts 8:26-40: Philip explained Jesus to the Ethiopian bureaucrat (verse 35).

Acts 9:19-25: Newly converted Saul, *“Immediately he began proclaiming Jesus in the synagogues: ‘He is the Son of God’”* (verse 20).

Acts 10:34-43: Peter told Cornelius that Jesus of Nazareth is *“Lord of all”* (verse 36), and *“everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins”* (verse 43).

RELENTLESS, BOLD AND FOCUSED

The apostles and earliest Christians were relentless.

- They would not stop preaching about Jesus.

The apostles and earliest Christian were bold.

- They were equal opportunity preachers. They proclaimed Jesus without apology in courtroom and crowd.

The apostles and earliest Christians were focused.

- They had one sermon, one testimony, and one topic: Jesus.
- They proclaimed Jesus as the crucified, raised, exalted, Messiah and Savior. They called people to repent, to believe, and be baptized in the name of Jesus. They explained that only Jesus saves.

ADOPTING THE AUDACIOUS ATTITUDE OF THE APOSTLES

We can be P.R.O.-active.

Pray: The earliest Christian prayed for boldness and the Lord answered (Acts 4:29-31).

Rely: The apostles became Spirit-filled proclaimers like Jesus.

Acts 4:13 (CSB) When they observed the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed and recognized that they had been with Jesus.

If we want to emulate them, we must rely on the Holy Spirit to make us bold like Jesus, and we must renounce self-consciousness, self-preservation, pride, fear, and whatever else blocks our boldness.

Opportunity: Pray that the Lord gives you opportunities to share Jesus, and gives you grace to speak boldly (see Colossians 4:3-4 and Ephesians 6:19-20).

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Review

- Review Peter's February 16th teaching and study guide.
- What were the highlights of Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- Use the S.P.E.C.K. method to reflect on and apply the teaching:
 - S: Sins to confess
 - P: Promises to claim
 - E: Examples to follow
 - C: Commands to obey or Christ to rest in
 - K: Knowledge or insights to consider

Discuss

- How would you describe the "audacious attitude" of the apostles?
- In what ways did the early Christians demonstrate that they "would not shut up" about Jesus?
- In what ways can we emulate the earliest Christians' relentless, bold, and focused sharing of Jesus today?
- What barriers might prevent us from adopting an audacious attitude in sharing our faith, and how can we overcome those barriers?

Prayers

- Pray Ephesians 6:19-20 or Colossians 4:3 over your group and for the Cornerstone family.
- Pray Colossians 1:9-13 for the group and the Cornerstone.