

Acts 4:19-37: Response.

1. (19-23) Stand In Jesus Christ.

Who should we listen too; the powerful God who healed the man or the religious leaders who didn't even care about God and the man? When God's commands and men's threats are contrary, who should we obey, God or man? **They were determined to listen to God instead of man. Peter and John did not create this message; they were being the reliable eyewitnesses that Jesus had commanded them to be in Acts 1:8; You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem.**

Daniel 3:17-18 - *"If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. "But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."*

Romans 13:1 - *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.*

2 Corinthians 4:8-18

Psalms 22:23 - *You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!*

2. (24-31) Stand In Prayer.

They went to their companions and reported, "Jesus healed a man through us! A crowd gathered, we preached Jesus, thousands go saved, we were arrested..."

- i. They prayed to the Lord of all creation, the God of all power; their prayer was because of their confidence in God.

John 14:14 - *If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*

- ii. They prayed in line with what God's Word says about the situation; quoting **Psalms 2:1,2**; knowing that the religious leaders were acting against God, not just them.
- iii. They prayed for boldness and God's power: They prayed for the advancement of God's Kingdom, not their comfort. They didn't ask God to take persecution away but to give them boldness and power to thrive amidst it.

2 Chronicles 1:10 - "Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?"

2 Thessalonians 3:1 - Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you...

- iv. God answered their prayers; they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and God manifest His power and presence in the earthquake.

Philippians 4:6-7 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Palm 58:6 - Break their teeth in their mouth, O God!...**Psalm 35:6** - Let their way be dark and slippery, And let the angel of the LORD pursue them.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, stand in his strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the gospel armor, each piece put on with prayer;
Where duty calls or danger, be never wanting there.

3. (32-37) Stand Unity.

- i. Unity In Sharing: The Christians had a very close attachment to what they owned; they cared most about each other, so they shared.

Romans 12:1-13 - Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

2 Corinthians 9:7 - So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

- ii. Unity In Purpose: The apostles and the believers continued declaring the risen Christ.

Acts 1:8 - "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."