

# UNSTOPPABLE POWER

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

“NO OTHER NAME”

ACTS 4:1-31

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**Introduction:** Today, we have come to another of many “firsts” in the book of Acts: the first instance of persecution because of the proclamation of the gospel. As we observe how Peter and John reacted to the threats of the religious leaders, we can learn some important principles for how to react when – not if – persecution comes.

## I. Arrested Because Of The Name Of Jesus (Acts 4:1-4)

Acts 4:1-4 <sup>1</sup> “As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them, <sup>2</sup> being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup> And they laid hands on them and put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening. <sup>4</sup> But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.”

## II. Tried Because Of The Name Of Jesus (Acts 4:5-17)

Acts 4:5-6 <sup>5</sup> “On the next day, their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem; <sup>6</sup> and Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of high-priestly descent.”

Acts 4:7 “When they had placed them in the center, they began to inquire, ‘By what power, or in what name, have you done this?’”

Acts 4:8-10 <sup>8</sup> “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers and elders of the people, <sup>9</sup> if we are on trial today and a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well, <sup>10</sup> 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.’”

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Acts 4:12 “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:13 “Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and begin to recognize them as having been with Jesus.”

### III. **Threatened Because Of The Name Of Jesus** (Acts 4:18-22)

Acts 4:18-20 <sup>18</sup> “When they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup> 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; <sup>20</sup> for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.’”

Acts 4:21 “When they had threatened them further, they let them go (finding no basis on which to punish them) on account of the people, because they were all glorifying God for what had happened.”

### IV. **Strengthened Because Of The Name Of Jesus** (Acts 4:23-31)

Acts 4:23-24, 31 <sup>23</sup> “When they had been released, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup> And when they heard this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, ‘O Lord, it is You who MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM.’ <sup>31</sup> 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.”

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## V. Three Timeless Truths From Acts 4

A. **Believing** in the Name of Jesus Offers the Only Way to Heaven

B. **Sharing** the Name of Jesus Is the Most Loving Thing We Can Do For Others

C. **Proclaiming** the Name of Jesus Will Lead to Persecution

Conclusion