



## SUPERNATURAL

### Week 7 | Boldness and the Holy Spirit

#### | KEY THOUGHTS

- When Peter and John were interrogated by the religious authorities in today's passage, who was in control? When the authorities released them for fear of public outcry if they didn't, who was in control? When you put yourself at risk to tell others about Christ, **who's in control of the situation?**
- Though Peter showed his natural weakness after Jesus's arrest when he denied that he ever knew Him, he answered courageously under interrogation by the priestly authorities. That's because **Peter didn't answer them himself, but in the boldness given him supernaturally by the Holy Spirit.**
- Peter, John and their friends praised the sovereign God—in the Greek, *despota*, the root of our English word "despot." It means an authority who exercises complete power, absolute dominion, over everything. **It is God who is in control over positively everything.**
- In their prayer, Peter and his friends quoted Psalm 2, understanding that when the rulers gathered together to kill Jesus, **it was all part of God's plan from the beginning**—the rulers thought they were in charge, but they weren't.
- Peter and John prayed for boldness to proclaim God's word, **knowing the difference between their responsibility and God's.**
- As we share God's word, God confirms that it is true. We can't change anyone's minds or hearts, but with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can speak boldly **and let God do what only He can do.**
- **We don't need the perfect opportunity to share the gospel; we need to boldness to do it.** And that's what we should pray for.
- Jesus was the flawless example of a person walking in perfect relationship with God. But He doesn't just give you an example; He gives you His life! **He takes your life, and gives you His; He takes your condemnation and gives you salvation.** That's why we love Jesus so much, and why we want others to know about Him.

## | SCRIPTURE

<sup>23</sup> When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup> 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, <sup>25</sup> who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

“‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain?

<sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’ —

<sup>27</sup> 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, <sup>28</sup> to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. <sup>29</sup> And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, <sup>30</sup> while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” <sup>31</sup> 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. **Acts 4:23-31 (ESV)**

## **| PRACTICAL**

- Read the book of Isaiah over the next few weeks, looking for places where the Messiah is revealed. Praise God for His beautiful unity within Himself and his perfect plan to restore us to unity with Him.
- I don't have to pray for opportunities to share the gospel; opportunities are all around me. Instead, I can pray for the boldness to proclaim the gospel, knowing that God will confirm that what I say is true.
- To assess if a person is spiritually open, ask questions like:
  - Do you feel like you're near or far from God?
  - How can I pray for you?
  - Do you have any spiritual beliefs?
  - May I tell you what Jesus has done in my life? Do you have a story like that too?

## | REFLECT

- Who is in charge of your circumstances and your life?
- Meditate on the depths of “The Great Exchange”: Jesus takes your place puts you in his place. Jesus gets the death, and you get the life; He gets alienation from God, you get reconciliation with God; He gets abandonment from His Father, and you get adoption, so that Jesus’s Father becomes your Father. Jesus gives up His Spirit to death, and you receive the same Holy Spirit that empowered Jesus’s ministry. He gets the condemnation, you get the salvation.
- If I’ve never accepted what Jesus is offering me, why not?
- If I have accepted Jesus as my Forgiver and my Leader, do I pray for the boldness to tell people I know and love about this amazing Great Exchange?

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