

Message.

Just as Peter and John were empowered, the Holy Spirit empowers us with a supernatural boldness to proclaim the Gospel. Because of what Jesus did, because He is our one and only Savior, should we not follow Him? To follow Jesus is to yield to the Holy Spirit, to release control. We can no longer listen to or seek the approval of people and our culture but seek only the approval of God. This sets us free from the fear of man. We must live by the Spirit, to boldly move forward the mission that Christ gave His Church.

Spirit-filled boldness is available to us as believers as we depend on Him. As humans, operating under our own power, our own strengths, our own logic, we are stoppable, but God has called us to an unstoppable mission. *An unstoppable church relies on the Spirit to empower us to be used for the glory of God. #bccBIGidea*

Prayer.

Father,

It is only through You that I find hope. You are the Giver of all good things. You are the Source of life itself. You have given me life and with this life, I want to bring You glory. Empower me with Your Spirit, Lord, so I can be the light in the darkness. Show me how to rely on Your Spirit and to deny my own desires.

Amen.

Scripture.

Acts 4:5-31

Self-Reflection.

Last week in Acts 3, we focused on the need for the Gospel. It is because of the Gospel that we can receive the Holy Spirit. It is because of the Gospel that we should want to give up our own lives and be controlled by the Holy Spirit; therefore, continuing the unstoppable mission given to us from Christ Himself. *An unstoppable church relies on the Spirit to empower us to be used for the glory of God.*

Peter and John were not acting alone. As Scripture says, they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

- How did the Spirit empower these ordinary men to glorify God?

Look at Acts 4:19-20

Filled with the Spirit, Peter and John boldly held to their obedience to God. Following God's leading is clearly more important than following the leading of people and even our own desires.

- What have you seen, heard, and/or experienced from God?
- Do you find yourself speaking of these things often? Why or why not?

Without the Spirit, it can be difficult to see, hear, and experience God's goodness, let alone speak of it. We must rely on the Spirit daily. Read Luke 11:10-13.

- If we are to rely on the Spirit, what is our daily action step?
- What does it look/sound like to ask for the Holy Spirit?
- How can you create this daily habit?
- What does it look like to be filled with the Spirit? (*Gal. 5:22-23, 1 Thess. 5:16-19*)

Francis Chan's book, "Forgotten God", challenges the disciple who commonly neglects the Holy Spirit. If you haven't read this book, I encourage you to do so. I also encourage you to continue digging into Scripture to learn more about the necessity of relying on the Holy Spirit.

Here are two articles from Gotquestions.org.

["What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives today?"](#)

["How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?"](#)