TELLING THE GOOD NEWS · STUDY NOTES

Study 5: The power of the Spirit and prayer

For personal study or groups

Your name

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How to use these notes. Watch each part's video on biblehelp.net, or read the text below. Look up each passage in your own Bible and write the answer on the lines. The verses are printed at the back if you need them. At the end there are questions to think about on your own or to discuss in a group.

PART 1

You will be My witnesses

Power to speak for Christ (Acts 1:1–14; Luke 24:47–49)

If only God can open a heart, how can weak and ordinary Christians have any part in His work? Where does the power come from? This study looks at two great gifts God gives His people for this work: the Holy Spirit, and prayer.

1. What Jesus began (Acts 1:1–3). Luke's Gospel told "all that Jesus began to do and to teach". Acts tells what the risen Lord went on doing, from heaven, by His Spirit, through His people. It is really the acts of the risen Christ. We are not carrying on a work He has left behind: He is still doing it, and we are His instruments. The church does not invent its own mission; it receives it from Christ. And the faith we proclaim rests on facts: He "presented Himself to them with many convincing proofs that He was alive."

1 **Read Acts 1:1–3**

What did Jesus do in the forty days, and why does that matter to our faith?

2. Wait for the gift (1:4–5). Before they could go anywhere, they had to wait. The work would not be done by their enthusiasm, their plans or their courage, but by the power of God. They were to wait in Jerusalem: God's mercy began where the sin was greatest. And what they waited for was a gift, not a reward for the most devoted. The prophets had promised it (Joel 2:28; Ezekiel 36:27). The Spirit came at Pentecost, and He is given to every believer: "if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ" (Romans 8:9).

2 **Read Acts 1:4–5**

Why did the disciples have to wait, and what were they waiting for?

See also: Acts 11:17.

3. Not the times, but the task (1:6–7). The disciples were thinking of a kingdom like other kingdoms. Jesus did not tell them the date: the Father has fixed it. And He gently corrected their idea of the kingdom. It is God's rule over the hearts and lives of His people (John 18:36), and it spreads by the word of the gospel. It has already come, because the King has come; and it is still to come in all its fullness. We live in between. There is kindness here: we do not need to carry the question of the date. It is not our task.

3 **Read Acts 1:6–7**

What did the disciples ask, and what did Jesus tell them about it?

See also: Acts 8:12; 19:8.

4. "You will be My witnesses" (1:8). This describes who they are, not only what they do. A witness does not invent anything or show how clever he is. He tells what he has seen and heard. The apostles had seen the risen Christ. We pass on what they saw and heard, and we can add what Christ has done for us. And a witness points away from himself: "My witnesses." We cannot make Christ known in our own strength. But we can point to Him, and the Spirit Himself makes Him known.

4 **Read Acts 1:8**

What is the power for? How are we witnesses today?

What we talk about

We find it easy to talk about the things we love: a good restaurant, a holiday, a football match, our children. No one has to train us. A witness for Christ is someone who has found something far better, and cannot keep quiet about Him.

5. To the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8 is like the table of contents of the book. The gospel is preached in Jerusalem (chapters 1–7), then in Judea and Samaria (chapter 8), then across the Roman world (chapters 13–28), ending in Rome. Jesus named Samaria on purpose: the Jews and the Samaritans had despised each other for centuries, and the gospel crosses every barrier we put up. "The ends of the earth" means peoples, every nation and language (Isaiah 49:6). Our plans for the gospel may be too impatient, or too self-centred. They will never be too big.

See also: Acts 28:31.

6. In the meantime (1:9–11). The cloud recalls the cloud of God's glory. Jesus went up to the place of all authority, and He will come back in the same way. We live in that "meantime". It is not a time for standing still and looking up, but a time for witness, for the Spirit and for prayer. And His return gives the work its urgency.

5 **Read Acts 1:9–11**

What did the two men tell the disciples, and what does that mean for how we live now?

7. Message, witnesses, power (Luke 24:47–49). Luke tells the same scene at the end of his Gospel. There is a message: "repentance and forgiveness of sins" for all nations. There are witnesses to carry it. And there is the power to carry it: "clothed with power from on high." All three are still given to the church today.

8. What the power looks like. It is not usually a feeling. In Acts the Spirit's power is seen again and again in boldness to speak about Christ. Boldness is not being loud or rude. It has been well described as being clear in the face of fear. Peter had denied Jesus to a servant girl; a few weeks later he stood before thousands (Acts 2:36). The same man, a different power. Every believer has the Spirit, but we keep depending on Him: "be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18).

See also: Acts 4:8, 31.

9. They continued in prayer (1:12–14). They obeyed, and they prayed. The church was born in a prayer meeting. Look at who was there: ordinary people, and among them a tax collector, who had worked for the Romans, and a Zealot, from a movement that wanted to drive the Romans

out. Once they would have been enemies. A church where people who would never naturally belong together pray together in love is part of our witness.

6 **Read Acts 1:12–14**

What did they do while they waited? What do you notice about the people in the room?

PART 2

The Spirit who convicts and opens eyes

What the Spirit does in those who hear (John 16:7–15; 2 Corinthians 4:1–7)

We can explain the gospel, and we can plead with people. But we cannot make anyone see that they need Christ, or how wonderful He is. Only the Spirit can do that.

1. "For your benefit" (John 16:7). How could it be better to lose Jesus? Because He was going to the cross and then to the Father, and only then would He send the Spirit, who would be with every believer, everywhere, always. "The Advocate" means someone called alongside to help. We are not at a disadvantage compared with those who walked with Jesus in Galilee.

7 **Read John 16:7**

Why was it for the disciples' benefit that Jesus went away?

2. He will convict (16:8). "Convict" belongs in a court of law. It means to bring the truth out into the open, so that a person can no longer deny it. Jesus says the Spirit will do this, not the disciples. That takes a weight off our shoulders. We tell the truth, and the Spirit brings it home.

8 **Read John 16:8**

Who convicts the world? How does that help you when you speak about Christ?

3. Of sin (16:9). Jesus puts His finger on the deepest sin: "they do not believe in Me." Unbelief is refusing the One God has sent, and it leaves every other sin unforgiven, because it turns away from the only Saviour. At Pentecost, when the crowd saw what they had done, they were "cut to the heart" (Acts 2:37).

9 **Read John 16:9**

What does Jesus name as the sin the Spirit convicts of?

4. Of righteousness (16:10). The Spirit shows people that their own righteousness is not enough, and that Christ's righteousness is. When Jesus went to the Father, it was God's proof that His Son was righteous and His sacrifice accepted. So the Spirit does not only wound. He wounds in order to heal.

10 **Read John 16:10**

What two things does the Spirit show people about righteousness?

5. Of judgement (16:11). Satan was condemned at the cross. So a day of judgement is coming, and those who stay on his side will share his condemnation. But his hold on people can also be broken. No one needs to stay his prisoner.

11 **Read John 16:11**

Who has been condemned? What warning, and what hope, does that give?

Do not skip the bad news

Charles Spurgeon warned that many people are built up who were never first pulled down. The Spirit's way is to show us our need first, and then Christ. When we speak to people, we must not skip the bad news to get to the good. The Spirit uses both.

6. "He will glorify Me" (16:12–15). "He will guide you into all truth" was a promise first to the apostles, who would write the New Testament. So when we want to know what the Spirit says, we go to the Scriptures He gave through them. We do not need a new message. And the Spirit's great aim is to glorify Christ. He is like a floodlight on a great building at night: you do not look at the floodlight, but at what it lights up. So our words must be about Christ too. Here the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit work together: one God, in three Persons, all at work in our salvation.

12 **Read John 16:12–15**

What is the Spirit's great aim? What does that tell us about our witness?

7. We do not lose heart (2 Corinthians 4:1–2). Paul had been an enemy of Christ, and he never forgot that he had received mercy. Someone who knows how much he has been forgiven does not easily give up telling others. He used no tricks and no distortion to make God's word easier to accept. He put the truth plainly, and let it speak to people's consciences.

13 **Read 2 Corinthians 4:1–2**

Why does Paul not lose heart, and how does he speak?

8. Why so many do not believe (4:3–4). The veil is over the hearer, not over the gospel. "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers." Satan keeps people busy, and makes them think they have no need, or plenty of time, or that the gospel is foolish. They hear the words, but they cannot see the glory of Christ. "Whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away" (2 Corinthians 3:16).

14 **Read 2 Corinthians 4:3–4**

What is it that unbelievers cannot see, and why?

9. Let light shine (4:5–6). Paul goes back to the first day of creation. God spoke, and there was light. The same God does the same thing in a human heart, and a person sees "the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." That is the new birth, and only God can do it. But He does it through people who proclaim Christ. Our part is to proclaim Christ. God's part is to make the light shine. We do not point people to our cleverness, our church or our experience, and we serve them for Jesus' sake.

15 **Read 2 Corinthians 4:5–6**

What is our part, and what is God's part?

Flipping the switch

John Piper put it simply: "Don't stop because you can't. Of course you can't. But the fact that you can't make electricity or create light never stops you from flipping light switches."

See also: Acts 26:18.

10. Jars of clay (4:7). Ordinary, breakable, cheap pots. No one would look twice at one; the value is in what it holds. If you feel very ordinary, not gifted, not clever, not confident, you are exactly the kind of person God uses. The weaker the jar, the clearer it is that the power is God's.

16 **Read 2 Corinthians 4:7**

Why does God put His treasure in jars of clay?

PART 3

Praying for boldness and open doors

Two prayers for the spread of the gospel (Acts 4:23–31; Colossians 4:2–6)

The Spirit gives power to Christ's witnesses, and only He can convict hearts and open blind eyes. So what do we do? We pray.

1. They lifted up their voices (Acts 4:23–24). Peter and John had been arrested, and ordered "not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus" (Acts 4:18). They went to their own people, and the church prayed. Their first response was not to complain, to plan revenge or to hide. And before they asked for anything, they reminded themselves who God is: "Sovereign Lord", a master with complete authority. Everything they feared was in His hands. When we are afraid, we should not carry our fear alone.

17 **Read Acts 4:23–24**

What was the church's first response, and how did they begin their prayer?

2. God's word and God's plan (4:25–28). They went to Psalm 2, and saw that it had come true in their own city. And they said something astonishing: the men who crucified Jesus "carried out what Your hand and will had decided beforehand would happen." Those men were guilty, and yet God had planned it, to save His people. So if God was in control at the cross, He is in control now. Notice how much of the prayer is about God, and how little is asking. Timid Christians often have a small view of God. Bold Christians have a big one.

18 **Read Acts 4:25–28**

What did the cross teach them about God's control of their own situation?

See also: Psalm 2:1–4; Isaiah 53:11.

3. "Enable Your servants" (4:29–30). They did not ask for the threats to go away, or for safety, or for their enemies to be punished. They asked for boldness to speak God's word. They asked God to make them faithful in their circumstances. In the time of the apostles, signs and wonders confirmed that their message came from God (Hebrews 2:3–4). The message they confirmed is now written down for us. What we can and must still pray for, every day, is what they asked for first: boldness to speak God's word.

19 **Read Acts 4:29–30**

What did they ask for, and what did they not ask for?

4. God answered (4:31). They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they did exactly what they had asked to do. "All": not only the apostles. And these people had already received the Spirit at Pentecost, yet they were filled again, for a new need. We do not need a second conversion. But we need to keep asking God to fill us with His Spirit, and to give us boldness when we are afraid.

20 **Read Acts 4:31**

How did God answer, and who was filled?

5. Praying like the first church. Go to God first. Remember who He is. Ask for boldness, not only for safety. And expect Him to answer.

6. Devote yourselves to prayer (Colossians 4:2). Keep at it, steadily, day after day. Prayer was never an extra for the first Christians (Acts 2:42). "Being watchful": like a sentry on guard at

night. We are in a spiritual battle, and prayer is more like a soldier's radio in a war than an intercom between rooms in a comfortable house. "And thankful": for our own salvation, and in advance for what God is going to do.

21 **Read Colossians 4:2**

What three things does Paul say about prayer here?

7. An open door and clear words (4:3–4). Paul was in chains, yet he asked for prayer for his preaching, not for his release. He asked for "a door for the word": a person ready to listen, a conversation that turns to the things of God (Acts 14:27). When the door is shut, no amount of pushing will open it, but God can. Prison did not stop the gospel (Philippians 1:12–14). And he asked to declare it clearly. When the door opens, there must be something clear to send through it. So we pray for clarity, and work at it too: think how to explain the gospel simply, and practise it. A "mystery" in the Bible is not a puzzle, but something once hidden and now made known: Christ Himself, the Saviour for Jews and Gentiles alike.

22 **Read Colossians 4:3–4**

What two things did Paul ask them to pray for? What did he not ask for?

Only God holds the key

Think of a locked door. You can knock, and wait, and knock again, but only someone with the key can open it. Hearts are like that. So before we speak to people about God, we speak to God about people. We could call it praying the locks off people's hearts. And then we watch, ready to walk through.

8. Wise and gracious (4:5–6). People are watching how we live. A life that contradicts our words closes doors; a life of honesty, kindness and patience can open them. "Redeeming the time" means buying up every opportunity, like a trader who will not let a good bargain pass. Our speech should be gracious: kind, warm, never harsh or sneering. And it should be seasoned with salt: not dull or empty. Salt gives flavour, and it makes people thirsty. Each person is different, and we need wisdom to answer each one.

23 **Read Colossians 4:5–6**

How can our lives and our words open or close doors?

9. A pattern for prayer. Pray for open doors: that God will give opportunities, and prepare hearts to listen. Pray for clear words: for yourself, and for everyone who preaches and teaches. Pray for boldness: that fear will not keep us silent. And pray for the people you know by name, that God will say, in their hearts, "Let light shine."

10. Study 5 in summary. The risen Christ gives His people the power of the Holy Spirit, to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1). Only the Spirit can convict, and only God can make His light shine in a blind heart, but He does it as we proclaim Christ (John 16; 2 Corinthians 4). So we depend on Him in prayer: for boldness, for open doors and for clear words (Acts 4; Colossians 4). We cannot do this work alone. We were never meant to.

THINK IT THROUGH

Questions for reflection and discussion

1. Do you think of yourself as one of Christ's witnesses? Who are the "Samaritans" in your life, the people you would rather not go to?

2. Have you sometimes skipped the bad news to get quickly to the good? Is there anyone you know who seems too blind for God? What would it mean this week to "flip the switch"?

3. When you are afraid to speak about Christ, what is your first response? Will you pray this week for one open door, and for boldness, not only for safety?

HIDE IT IN YOUR HEART

Memory verse for study 5

Learn this verse by heart this week. Cut out the card and keep it where you will see it.

TELLING THE GOOD NEWS · STUDY 5 · MEMORY VERSE

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

Berean Standard Bible · biblehelp.net

“I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:11, BSB)

AT THE BACK

The Bible passages (BSB)

1 **Acts 1:1–3** *[1]In my first book, O Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach, [2]until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen. [3]After His suffering, He presented Himself to them with many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a span of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.*

2 **Acts 1:4–5** *[4]And while they were gathered together, He commanded them: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift the Father promised, which you have heard Me discuss. [5]For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."*

3 **Acts 1:6–7** *[6]So when they came together, they asked Him, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" [7]Jesus replied, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority.*

4 **Acts 1:8** *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

5 **Acts 1:9–11** *[9]After He had said this, they watched as He was taken up, and a cloud hid Him from their sight. [10]They were looking intently into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. [11]"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven."*

6 **Acts 1:12–14** *[12]Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near the city, a Sabbath day's journey away. [13]When they arrived, they went to the upper room where they were staying: Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. [14]With one accord they all continued in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.*

7 **John 16:7** *But I tell you the truth, it is for your benefit that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.*

8 **John 16:8** *And when He comes, He will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:*

9 **John 16:9** *in regard to sin, because they do not believe in Me;*

10 **John 16:10** *in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see Me;*

11 **John 16:11** *and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world has been condemned.*

12 **John 16:12–15** *12I still have much to tell you, but you cannot yet bear to hear it. 13However, when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak what He hears, and He will declare to you what is to come. 14He will glorify Me by taking from what is Mine and disclosing it to you. 15Everything that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said that the Spirit will take from what is Mine and disclose it to you.*

13 **2 Corinthians 4:1–2** *1Therefore, since God in His mercy has given us this ministry, we do not lose heart. 2Instead, we have renounced secret and shameful ways. We do not practice deceit, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by open proclamation of the truth, we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*

14 **2 Corinthians 4:3–4** *3And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

15 **2 Corinthians 4:5–6** *5For we do not proclaim ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

16 **2 Corinthians 4:7** *Now we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this surpassingly great power is from God and not from us.*

17 **Acts 4:23–24** *23On their release, Peter and John returned to their own people and reported everything that the chief priests and elders had said to them. 24When the believers heard this, they lifted up their voices to God with one accord. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "You made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them.*

18 **Acts 4:25–28** *25You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of Your servant, our father David: 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 26The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against His Anointed One.' 27In fact, this is the very city where Herod and Pontius Pilate conspired with the Gentiles and the people of Israel against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed. 28They carried out what Your hand and will had decided beforehand would happen.*

19 **Acts 4:29–30** *29And now, Lord, consider their threats, and enable Your servants to speak Your word with complete boldness, 30as You stretch out Your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of Your holy servant Jesus."*

20 **Acts 4:31** *After they had prayed, their meeting place was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*

21 **Colossians 4:2** *Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful,*

22 **Colossians 4:3–4** *3as you pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4Pray that I may declare it clearly, as I should.*

23 **Colossians 4:5–6** *5Act wisely toward outsiders, redeeming the time. 6Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

Scripture: Berean Standard Bible (BSB), public domain. Quotations keep its American spelling. Like many English Bibles, it often says ‘man’, ‘he’ or ‘brothers’ where it means people in general, men and women alike.

FOR GROUP LEADERS

Study 5: The power of the Spirit and prayer

> **Memory verse:** “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8). Say it together at the end, and ask who can say it without looking.

Aims

- See from Acts 1 that the risen Christ gives His people the power of the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses, from where they are to the ends of the earth.
- See from John 16 and 2 Corinthians 4 that only the Spirit can convict people and open blind eyes, and that He does it as we proclaim Christ.
- See from Acts 4 and Colossians 4 that we depend on God in prayer: for boldness, for open doors and for clear words.

Suggested timing (about 100 minutes)

- **5 min** Welcome and short prayer.
- **30 min** Part 1 video (16 min); Acts 1:1–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8, 9–11, 12–14.
- **30 min** Part 2 video (15 min); John 16:7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12–15; 2 Corinthians 4:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7.
- **30 min** Part 3 video (14 min); Acts 4:23–24, 25–28, 29–30, 31; Colossians 4:2, 3–4, 5–6.
- **5 min** Reflection questions. Close in prayer, using the pattern in part 3.

For most groups, take one part each week. If you do, end each meeting by praying together, so that the group practises what it is learning.

Tips

- Keep the study's main point in view: the work depends on God, and God works through us. Christians who think it all depends on them become anxious, and those who think it has nothing to do with them become silent.
- Believers differ on some questions about the Spirit, such as the baptism of the Spirit and the gifts. The study teaches that every believer has the Spirit (Acts 11:17; Romans 8:9) and that we keep asking to be filled (Ephesians 5:18). If a question arises, answer gently, go back to the passage, and keep to its purpose, which here is boldness to speak about Christ.
- On Acts 4:30, the study presents signs and wonders as God's confirmation of the apostles' message (Hebrews 2:3–4). Do not let the discussion move away from what the church asked for first: boldness to speak God's word.
- Some in the group may feel that "witness" means being a preacher. Help them see that a witness simply tells what he knows about Christ.
- "Who are the Samaritans in your life?" may touch on real hurts. Do not press anyone to answer aloud.
- On John 16:8–11, make sure the group sees both sides: the Spirit wounds in order to heal. Ask how we can speak of sin and judgement honestly, and still with kindness.
- The "flip the switch" picture is memorable, but check that the group has understood the point: we are not the power, and we still have a part to do.
- On Acts 4:28, some may ask how men can be guilty when God had planned it. It is fine to say that the Bible teaches both, as we saw in study 4, and that we may not be able to explain it fully.

- Part 3 is about prayer, so pray. Ask each person to name one person they are praying for, and one open door they would like to see, if they are willing.

Answers to watch for

- **Acts 1:1–3:** He showed Himself alive with many convincing proofs, and spoke about the kingdom of God; our faith rests on facts.
- **Acts 1:4–5:** the task was too great for their own strength; they were waiting for the gift the Father promised, the Holy Spirit.
- **Acts 1:6–7:** whether He would now restore the kingdom to Israel; the times are fixed by the Father, and are not for us to know.
- **Acts 1:8:** the power is for being Christ's witnesses; we pass on what the apostles saw and heard, and can add what Christ has done for us.
- **Acts 1:9–11:** Jesus will come back as He went; so this is a time for work, not for standing still and looking up.
- **Acts 1:12–14:** they obeyed and prayed with one accord; ordinary people, and some who would once have been enemies.
- **John 16:7:** only after He had died, risen and returned to the Father would He send the Spirit, who is with every believer, everywhere.
- **John 16:8:** the Spirit, not us; we tell the truth, and He brings it home.
- **John 16:9:** unbelief: refusing Christ.
- **John 16:10:** their own righteousness is not enough; Christ's righteousness is.
- **John 16:11:** judgement is coming; and Satan's hold can be broken, because he has been condemned.
- **John 16:12–15:** to glorify Christ; so our words must be about Christ too.
- **2 Corinthians 4:1–2:** he has received mercy; he speaks openly, with no deceit and no distorting of God's word.
- **2 Corinthians 4:3–4:** the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ; Satan has blinded their minds.
- **2 Corinthians 4:5–6:** our part is to proclaim Christ; God's part is to make the light shine.
- **2 Corinthians 4:7:** to show that the great power is from God and not from us.
- **Acts 4:23–24:** they prayed together; they began by remembering who God is.
- **Acts 4:25–28:** even the cross was in God's hand, so the threats of the council could not stop His purposes.
- **Acts 4:29–30:** boldness to speak God's word; not for safety, or for the threats to go away, or for their enemies to be punished.
- **Acts 4:31:** the place was shaken; all were filled with the Spirit and spoke the word boldly.
- **Colossians 4:2:** devote yourselves to it; be watchful; be thankful.
- **Colossians 4:3–4:** an open door for the word, and that he would declare it clearly; he did not ask for his release.
- **Colossians 4:5–6:** a life of honesty and kindness can open doors, and one that contradicts our words closes them; gracious speech, with something worth tasting.