



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High.
Title: Handling Persecution,
Part 7
Lesson: 35

Text: Acts 4:21-31
Date: March 5, 2023

How to handle persecution.

1. Be filled with the Holy Spirit
2. Spend time with Jesus
3. Anticipate it
4. See opposition as a God-ordained opportunities to witness.
5. Be obedient no matter what the cost.

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; 22 for the man was more than forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.

They were forced to let the apostles go.

1. There was no crime.
2. It was not politically expedient
3. The healed man was standing before them.

6. Be committed to a local _____.

23 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.

“their own companions”

The importance of local assemblies.

Life Application:

**We need the strength and encouragement of other
_____ believers.**

7. Be committed to corporate _____.

24 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,

Life Application: God's _____ is the comfort we need when we face difficult circumstances.

"Lord" [despotes] -

25 who by the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, 'WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE, AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS? 26 'THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.'

From Psalm 2:1-2

David is a type of Christ

A type is a prophetic symbol that points forward to something else

“FUTLE”

**Life Application: God is sovereign over the evil
_____ of man.**

Why is there so much rage?

27 “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,

25 who by the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, ‘WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE, AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS? 26 ‘THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.’

27 “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,

Prediction Gentiles (25) - Fulfillment Gentiles (27)
Prediction Peoples (25) - Fulfillment peoples of Israel (27)
Prediction Kings (26) - Fulfillment Herod (27)
Prediction Rulers (26) - Fulfillment Pontius Pilate (27)

28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

Predestination [proorizo] - To be determined beforehand.

Psalm 76:10 For the wrath of man shall praise You; With a remnant of wrath You will gird Yourself.

Acts 2:23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

29 “And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence,

“bond-servants” [doulous] - slave - one who is subservient to and entirely at the disposal of his master

Many of the great saints in the O.T. were called servants.

Abraham - Genesis 26:24; Numbers 12:7).

Joshua - Joshua 24:29

David - 2 Samuel 7:5)

Isaiah - Isaiah 20:3

“confidence”

30 while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.”

31 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.

“shaken”

“filled with the Holy Spirit”

“began to speak the word of God with boldness.”

Discussion Guide

1. How do you think you would do if you were arrested but committed no crime?
2. Do you find the state of our culture affects you? If so, in what way(s)?
3. On a scale from 1-10 (ten the highest) how important is our fellowship to you? How do you think that would change if you were under persecution?
4. We see in our passage how important corporate prayer is. Why do you believe most believers don't consider gathering together in prayer as a high priority?
5. Do you tend to apply God's sovereignty to your situations? Read Romans 8:28-30 and share how these verses can bring comfort and confidence to your life.
6. Have you always believed in predestination? How should this doctrine affect our Christian life?

ANSWERS: fellowship, like-minded, prayer, sovereignty, schemes

