

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

BACK TO THE BOOK OF ACTS (BBA)

RLJ-1124

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PART 16: CRUSHING THE GATES OF HELL

There will be resistance from the Devil when Christians are storming the Gates of Hell. He will use spiritual and human forces. **Acts 4:1-3**

God is also working at the same time, and in this instance, there were about 5,000 men who were born again and added to the Church. **verse 4**

If you look at the same way that Satan has been using the different branches of government in the United States (congress, state and federal courts) to restrict Christianity, he also did the same thing at the time of the apostles. **verses 5-6**

The Jewish leadership realized that the healing of the impotent man was a supernatural act. Their priests did not possess this kind of power and they were eager to find the source of this power. **verse 7**

It is now that we can see the power of God moving in Peter and John. In themselves they did not possess the boldness to confront the top leadership of the Jews, ***but since they were possessed by the Holy Spirit, it was the Holy Spirit who responded to the questions posed to the apostles!*** **verses 8-10**

The Holy Spirit is not a dictator. A Christian can say no to the Holy Spirit and the power will leave. In the Satanic kingdom, it is the total opposite.

A demon possessed man/woman has no control over their mind, emotions and body. Therefore, men and women will become suicide bombers, murderers, and sexual predators like rapists, homosexuals and pedophiles against their own will.

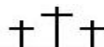
The same holds true for demon oppressed Christians. We have seen Christian men and women go on a rampage, killing their spouses and children in cold blood.

Remember, a demon possessed/oppressed person has supernatural powers working through them that can do great damage to people and property. **Mark 5:1-16**

PROCLAIMING THE END OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

Without hesitation, Peter allowed the Holy Spirit to make a statement that is absolute! In order to obtain salvation and eternal life with God, there is only one way, and that is through the Son of God, Jesus Christ! **Acts 4:11-12**

It is interesting that the Jewish leadership did not dispute this truth with the apostles. The reason for that is that Judaism has nothing to offer; it has no plan of salvation and eternal life with God. It is a religion of concentrating on the here and now, and when a person is dead, life simply ceases to exist. They didn't



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accept the message but took notice that Peter and John had been with Jesus. **verses 13-14**

The concern of the Jewish leadership was that their power as religious leaders and their income was being threatened. A discussion followed of what could be done to stop the apostles from spreading the truth about Jesus. **verses 15-17**

The Jewish leadership couldn't understand the mindset of the apostles because the Jews lived for here and now and therefore thought that the apostles would back up if threatened. But a Spirit filled believer in Christ is not interested in the here and now; we are living here temporarily waiting to be transferred to heaven and eternal life with God. **verses 18-22**

COMING BACK TO THE CHURCH

When Peter and John came back to the congregation, they didn't hold back anything and told the believers about the confrontation with the Jewish leadership. **verse 23**

This was not a "Seeker Friendly Church" or a "Purpose Driven Church," this was a blood bought, born again, filled with the Holy Ghost fire church where the membership was ready to crush the Gates of Hell. When they prayed, it was heard in heaven and in the kingdom of Satan. **verses 24-30**

THEY WERE FILLED AGAIN WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Most people have not understood that there is an initial Baptism of the Holy Ghost, but from then on, there are fresh fillings, over and over again. **verse 31**

Since many of the people in the church did not live in Jerusalem, a communal fellowship developed. The Bible doesn't tell us this is something all Christians should do, it simply records that this is how it was done at that time in the city of Jerusalem. The Bible records that the apostles presented the Gospel in Jerusalem with great power. **verses 32-37**

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS CHAPTER?

1. Never back down when someone tells you that you cannot bring out truth from the Bible. The Holy Ghost will speak through you when you are treated unjustly by policemen or brought before a court. **Matthew 10:16-31**
2. Regardless of the threat, never deny Jesus Christ. **Matthew 10:32-33**
3. Expect miracles from God; live and walk in the supernatural realm. Never look at circumstances, the bigger the obstacle, the bigger the miracle will be! **2 Corinthians 10:3-6**
4. Never pray for anything unless you have faith to believe that God is able to respond and take care of the situation. **James 1:5-8; Hebrews 11:1-6**

UNBELIEF MUST BE CONFESSED – Mark 9:14-29