

# ***Bible Study***

## ***Gods Word in Focus***



**Week Thirty Five**

**Acts of the Apostles**

***Acts 4:1-37***

# Peter and John Arrested

Acts 4:1-4

The first case of persecution against the church is described in this chapter. Peter and John are put into custody because their preaching on the resurrection of Jesus disturbed a number of the religious leaders (in particular the Sadducees who denied any resurrection, [Mt 22:23](#); [Ac 23:8](#)). In spite of this, the number of men who believed came to be about five thousand

# The Name of Jesus Forbidden

## Acts 4:5-22

After a night in jail, Peter and John are brought before the council, including the high priest and members of his family. Challenged to explain themselves, Peter proclaims the healing was done by the name of Jesus Christ, the very one they crucified yet whom God raised from the dead and who has now become "the chief cornerstone" (cf. [Ps 118:22](#)), and in whose name alone salvation is now available. Amazed at Peter and John's boldness, and unable to deny that the lame man had been healed, the council sends them outside and confer among themselves. They decide to prevent the spread of the apostles' doctrine by threatening Peter and John not to preach or teach in the name of Jesus. The apostles respond that they must speak what they have seen and heard. The council, unable to do anything more at this time because of the people, simply threaten the apostles once again and let them go.

# Prayer for Boldness

Acts 4:23-31

Returning to their companions, Peter and John report what has been said. Prayer is offered, asking for boldness in view of the persecution foretold in [Psalms 2:1-2](#), and for signs and wonders to continue in the name of Jesus. At the conclusion of the prayer, the place where they prayed was shaken and all were filled with the Holy Spirit, emboldening them to speak the Word of God

# Sharing in All Things

Acts 4:32-36

The chapter ends with a description of the continued growth of the church, with the oneness of the brethren and the empowered testimony of the apostles to the resurrection of Jesus. The great liberality continues, meeting the needs of the saints. One example in particular is noted, that of Barnabas, whose work is featured later in the book (cf. [Ac 11:22-30](#); [13:1-15:41](#)), and whose liberality stands in stark contrast to what takes place in the next chapter