

In the Spirit's Power: Boldly Go!

Sermon in a Sentence: We must boldly proclaim the gospel to the ends of the earth in the power of the Holy Spirit

Sermon Purpose: That Christians will be empowered by the Spirit and committed to boldly taking the gospel to the lost.

Text: Acts 4:31

Introduction:

1. Tell story of the Second Jerusalem Outpouring (Ac 4:1-31).
2. The Africa Assemblies of God “Decade of Pentecost” theme for 2018 is *“In the Spirit’s Power: Boldly Go!”*
3. It is inspired by v. 31: “After they prayed...they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”
4. Empowered by the Spirit the NT Church boldly proclaimed Christ
 - a. ...in the face of danger and opposition.
 - b. ...in Jerusalem and in the Roman world.
5. We must follow their example and “boldly go!” in four ways:

I. WE MUST BOLDLY PRAY AS WE HAVE NEVER PRAYED BEFORE

- A. In our story we observe the NT Christians praying (vv.24-30).
- B. They prayed for God’s mission to advance (v.29).
- C. They also prayed for God’s Spirit to empower them (v.30).
 1. Jesus teaches us to pray for the Spirit (Lk 11:9-11)
 - a. In this prayer, the church is obeying Christ’s directive.
 2. They asked for the Spirit’s power (v.30).
 - a. “Stretch out your hand” is a prayer for the Spirit.
 - b. The hand of the Lord = the Spirit of the Lord (Ez 37:1)
 3. We must pray as they did: for God’s mission—for the Spirit.
- D. God answered their prayer: “After they had prayed...” (v.31)
 1. God manifested His presence: The place was “shaken.”
 2. The Spirit empowered their witness (Ac 1:8).

II. WE MUST BOLDLY WITNESS AS WE HAVE NEVER WITNESSED BEFORE

- A. This is what happened in our story:
 1. “They spoke the word of God with boldness” (v.31).
 2. Read v.33: “With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus...”

- 3 “Much grace” = the power of the Spirit.
- B. This result is in accordance with Jesus’ final promise to the church:
 1. Read and expound: Luke 24:48-49
 2. Read and expound: Acts 1:8
- C. We must do the same today: we must boldly pray; we must be empowered; we must witness with power

III. WE MUST BOLDLY CHALLENGE DEMONIC FORCES AS WE HAVE NEVER CHALLENGED THEM BEFORE

- A. Soon after being filled with the Spirit in Acts 4, the church encountered satanic opposition in Acts 5 (vv.1-10).
 1. Satan tried to use Ananias and Sapphira to subvert the mission.
 2. Peter defeated Satan’s agenda through the Spirit’s power.
 3. Satan is challenging the advance of the gospel today.
- B. As we go, we must challenge and defeat demons in Jesus’ name and in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 1. Jesus: “...in my name they will drive out demons” (Mk 16:17).
 2. Jesus, “...I by the Spirit of God cast out demons...” (Mt 12:28).

IV. WE MUST GO TO BOLDLY TO PLANT CHURCHES WHERE WE HAVE NEVER PLANTED THEM BEFORE

- A. Spirit-empowered church planting occurs throughout the book of Acts.
 1. Jesus directed His disciples to plant churches “in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”
 2. We must do the same.
- B. We must boldly go to the unreached peoples and places to reach the lost and plant Spirit-empowered churches.
 1. Like Paul, we must go to “the regions beyond” (1Co 10:16).
 2. And like him, we must go in the Spirit’s power (Ro 15:17-19; 1Co 2:3-5).

Conclusion and Altar Call

Come now, be filled with the Spirit, and commit yourself to boldly pray, boldly witness, and to boldly plant churches.

— Denzil R. Miller