

# FALL QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015

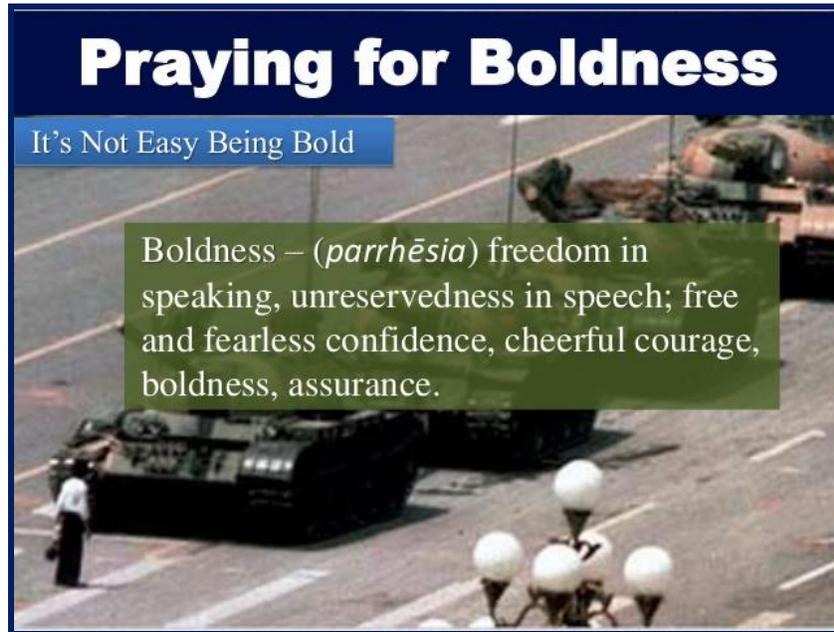
**THEME: ACTS – EXPOSING GOD’S CHURCH COMMUNITY IN ACTION!**

**UNIT ONE – “The Gains of their Actions”**

**UNIT TWO – “The Pains of their Actions”**

**UNIT THREE – “The Fame of their Actions”**

**“PRAYING FOR BOLDNESS IN A BRAZEN SOCIETY”**



**Sunday School Lesson No. I, September 6, 2015**

**Rev. Frank A Davis, III - Pastor-Teacher**

**Lesson Text:** Acts 4:23-31

**Required Reading:** Acts 3 – 4

**Motto Text:** Acts 4:12, 31, *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved....And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.”*

**Reliable Resources:** Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; UMI Precepts for Living; Word-Search 10 Electronic Library; The Book of Acts by E. C. Gillentine; The Book of Acts in 24 Lessons by E. L. Bynum; Acts, the Church in Action by David Jeremiah

## **Lesson Introduction:**

Throughout the Church community there is a desire to have as a whole, bigger, brighter and better churches built on the model of great men. To this end people of God travel from seminar to workshop to school, etc. seeking the formula that will bring success and numbers. Beloved I, like any of God’s true men, want to reach my Holy Spirit-led potential, but is the true answer in such activities? We can all learn something from each other, but what about God’s school of success?

We are about to enter the school of Jesus as we study the Church’s history book called Acts! It is my hope that we will discover the true actions of God’s Church community. Let us learn from Peter’s preaching and prayer and from Paul’s travels, preaching, teaching and sacrifice as he stands for Jesus Christ in a brazen society.

Now our lesson will pick up at Chapter 4 in the Sunday School quarterly, but as true students of the Word, please begin reading at least at Chapter 1. And as you read, remember some key words from the Book of Acts as highlighted by E. C. Gillentine: “(1) Holy Spirit occurs no less than 55 times, (2) Believe, believed, believeth, believing, etc. and (3) Faith, no less than 58 times, (4) Repentance, 11 times, (5) Baptism, 31 times, (6) Prayer, prayed, 35 times; (7) Resurrection, raised or raise, 28 times; (8) One accord, 11 times and Church, 21 times.”

Now let us examine this week's lesson, "Praying for Boldness in a Brazen Society." **Anticipated Power Points:**

- **Because of their Society's Antagonism. Acts 4:23**
- **Because of their Sovereign's Assurance. Acts 4:24-28**
- **Because of the Spirit's Authorization. Acts 4:29-31**

## LESSON OUTLINE

**Praying for Boldness in a Brazen Society...**

**I. Because of their Society's Antagonism. Acts 4:23**

After performing a note-worthy miracle by healing a crippled man in the name of Jesus, Peter and John entered the Temple with the now healed man who leaped, jumped, and gave God praise. They began preaching to the captive audience of the person of Jesus, His death, burial and resurrection. This brought about a considerable uproar of the religious leaders to which Peter and John were imprisoned until the next day. Upon being summoned, they came forth and stood steadfastly in the presence of the high Jewish court and refused to recant their testimony, for without doubt a notable miracle had truly been performed. After being threatened and released, they returned to the Church and reported the incident. (Read Acts 3:1 – 4:22). I Corinthians 12:26 tells us, *"And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it."*

**II. Because of their Sovereign's Assurance. Acts 4:24-28**

The young church was the place that Peter and John chose to return to after being released. They had been imprisoned and threatened by the authorities, so what did they do? They did not seek a well-planned strategy or bring in an expert to encourage them, but they went down in prayer and found the Sovereign's assurance from Psalm 2, making all the proper interpretations. This is a Psalm of David, which declares the Sovereign authority of Jehovah! (Please stop and read it now). Beloved, who is your Sovereign Lord today? I call Him Jesus Christ! Beloved, ours is not fear but faith in God's Word. Psalm 121:1-8, *"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."*

**III. Because of the Spirit's Authorization. Acts 4:29-31**

The early church went into prayer seeking the authority of the Lord to be more bold against the brazen society of their day. Dr. David Jeremiah writes: "And what did they need? Even greater boldness to preach the Word, and more signs and wonders! The very thing that landed Peter and John in jail is what they prayed for more of. They did not pray for protection or safety or asylum. They prayed that God's power would enable them to do even greater works than had been done already. Remember signs and wonders were demonstrated through the apostles to validate the Word they were preaching. Before the New Testament canon was completed, God authenticated His spokesmen, the Apostles, through signs and wonders...There is no question that God heard and answered the church's prayer. The place where they had gathered was shaken, they were filled afresh with the Holy Spirit, and they continued to speak the Word with the boldness for which they had prayed."

**Closing:**

As we enter this study in the history book of the New Testament, let us learn from its pages that God still honors the prayers of the righteous. In this brazen world of sin and shame with its Godlessness and iniquity, let us pray for boldness to stand and represent the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! I Thessalonians 5:18, *"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*

### "Praying for Boldness in a Brazen Society"

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TV Telecast: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.

Looking Ahead:

September 13, 2015

Acts 4:34 – 5:10



**The Sunday School Lesson is taught each Wednesday at noon at Bibleway. All are welcome!**