

LIFE APP

PROOF

PROOF POSITIVE

April 10-11, 2021

Acts 4:12-14 NIV: “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

We know that following the crucifixion and before the Resurrection, the disciples of Jesus were filled with doubts, confusion, and fear. Even though Jesus had told them what was going to happen, they didn't really understand until they saw Him again personally. But once they saw that He had risen from the dead, they were completely changed forever! They now had “Proof Positive” that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah, the Anointed One, and their doubts, confusion, and fear were all replaced with deep, abiding faith. This week's passage gives us a great example of how Peter and John became bold and courageous about witnessing for Christ because of the evidence that changed their lives. They provide us with the example to follow!

Read Acts 3:1-10:

1) Describe what took place in this passage.

Who was involved?

Where were they?

What was the situation?

What happened?

How did the onlookers respond?

Read Acts 3:11-16:

2) Describe what happened next and how Peter's attitude and perspective had completely changed.

Read Acts 4:1-4:

3A) How did the religious leaders respond?

3B) How did those listening to Peter respond?

Read Acts 4:8-12:

4A) How does this passage reveal that Peter was being Faithful, Fortright, and Fearless?

4B) PERSONAL: How does Peter's example encourage you to be Faithful, Fortright, and Fearless?

Read Acts 4:13-22:

5A) PERSONAL: Describe the quandry the religious leaders found themselves in and how you think God was able to protect Peter and John at this time.

5B) How do the following verses reflect and confirm what Peter and John were doing?

1 Corinthians 4:1-2:

James 2:20-22:

Read Acts 4:23-31:

6A) PERSONAL: What do you find intersting about the believers' prayer?

6B) PERSONAL: When you compare this prayer with Psalm 2, why do you think the words of this Psalm were used in their prayer and helped them to be bold in their witness?

7A) According to verse 31, how did God respond to their prayer?

7B) PERSONAL: How does this encourage you to pray a similar prayer?

ACT: The disciples had positive proof that Jesus is the Son of God, because they were eyewitnesses to His Resurrection. Their proof and the evidence that they have presented for us in Scripture should help us to also be faithful in our witness for Christ. We need to be honest and forthright as we talk to others and give them the same examples that John used in His Gospel and then the proof of transformed lives we find in these verses in Acts. Like the disciples, we can also be fearless, because we see how God used their courage and boldness to change the lives of others as it has changed our lives as well. Father, we also pray that You will fill us with Your Holy Spirit and that You will enable us to speak Your Word with great boldness!

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's explore passages that remind us that God wants us to be bold in sharing our faith.

Monday:

Acts 14:3 NIV

At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Greeks believed. But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the other Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders.

Tuesday:

Acts 28:30-31 NIV

For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

Wednesday:

2 Corinthians 3:11-12 NLT

So if the old way, which has been replaced, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new, which remains forever! Since this new way gives us such confidence, we can be very bold.

Thursday:

Ephesians 3:12 NLT

Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence.

Friday:

Ephesians 3:19 NLT

And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike.

Saturday:

Hebrews 4:15-16 NLT

This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Sunday:

1 John 3:20-21 NLT

Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if we don't feel guilty, we can come to God with bold confidence.



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