

The Church Triumphant in Persecution: Victory Over Abuse

Acts 04:23–31

1 *Peter and John were released*

- a. They reported to the church

- b. The church triumphantly lifted its voice to God — a united voice

2 *A conviction of God's power*

3 *A conviction of man's futility and God's plan or providence*

4 *A conviction of mission and of God's concern*

- a. Of mission and boldness
- b. Of the need for signs and wonders

5 *The results*

- a. The place where they were meeting was shaken
- b. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit
- c. They witnessed boldly

23 On their release,

Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.

24 When they heard this,

they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.

25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit

through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

"Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

26 The kings of the earth take their stand

and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.

27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together

with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.

28 They did what your power and will

had decided beforehand should happen.

29 Now, Lord, consider their threats

and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

30 Stretch out your hand to heal

and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

31 After they prayed,

the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.