

Resisting Opposition

Acts 4:1-35

1. Spirit Enabled Resistance Vs. 1-22

a) Opposition Rises Vs 1-4

Although thousands believed Peter and John's testimony linking the cripples' healing with Jesus' resurrection, the upset temple authorities, in opposition to that testimony, imprisoned Peter and John.

b) Opposition Rebuked Vs 5-12

Opposition's attempt to silence testimony to Jesus' resurrection was resisted through a Spirit enabled appeal that rebuked the opposition as those scripture prophesied would reject Jesus and not be saved.

c) Opposition Resisted Vs 13-22

The authorities, astonished by Jesus' uneducated disciples' courageous and irrefutable testimony, could not threaten disciples into silence who were resolved to obey God's command to testify about Jesus.

Resolved to obey God in testifying to Jesus' resurrection, Peter courageously resisted the opposition's attempt to silence him through a Spirit enabled rebuking appeal to not miss out on salvation themselves.

Opposition to obedient testifying to the resurrected Jesus as the only way of salvation is resisted through a courageous Spirit enabled appeal that rebukes the opposed for resisting their own salvation

2. Prayer Enabled Resistance Vs. 23-31

Peter and John returned to the other disciples where through corporate scripture fed prayer, the Sovereign Lord filled them afresh with the Holy Spirit to boldly overcome the authorities' opposition.

Through corporate scripture fed prayer we can bring any opposition to our testimony to our Sovereign Lord who will give fresh power through the Spirit's filling to boldly overcome it.

3. Unity Enabled Resistance Vs 32-35

The disciples' unity (evidenced by the grace of sharing with those in need growing among believers in response to the apostles' empowered testimony to Jesus' resurrection) testified to Jesus' resurrection.

Believers' unity portrayed by the growing grace of benevolence amongst believers in response to Jesus' resurrection is a powerful testimony to Jesus' resurrection that resists opposition's silencing.

Main Idea: Opposition will arise when testifying the gospel, but we can resist when we depend on the Spirit, come together in prayer, and respond to Jesus resurrection with unified loving actions.

Deployment:

- 1) As we go about our daily life, God will provide opportunities for us to share the gospel. In those moments, Scripture makes it very clear that people will respond positively to the gospel and others will strongly oppose the gospel. When you face opposition, our reaction must always have loving words that provide them an opportunity to reconsider; a saving rebuke. How do we lean on the Holy Spirit when opposition arises? What truths from God's word could we lean on to help us respond the right way?
- 2) As a church we need to continue coming together and participate in Scripture Fed Prayer. What steps will you take to make sure you are personally praying with others on a regular basis?

How would you disciple someone who asks, "How does someone do Scripture Fed Prayer"?

- 3) Our unity as a church not only draws others to Jesus, but also provides the necessary resistance to those who are opposed to Jesus resurrection. What does the growing grace of benevolence towards one another look like today? What can I do to help our church grow in this needed unity?