



96. Confidence and Courage

They prayed, “‘Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.’ And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness,” Acts 4:29-31.

The First Century Church quickly grew to 5000 men.

However, they were beginning to be persecuted.

Peter and John were arrested and jailed overnight.

The authorities threatened them and ordered them not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. Then they

were released. They returned to their own and reported all that had happened. Then they all lifted up their voices in one accord and prayed the prayer in Acts 4:29-31. They did not pray that God would stop the persecution. Instead, they prayed for boldness.

How do you react to opposition and to persecution? Should you ask God to change your circumstances or to change your confidence? Jesus said, "*Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you,'*" John 15:20. Jesus also said, "*These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world,*" John 16:33. Don't just ask Jesus to take the persecution and tribulation away. Also pray that He will give you confidence and boldness to press on with the Gospel!