

Pray for More

ACTS 4:23-31

How do believers respond to persecution?

Individual believers _____ to their community
and _____ what happened.

Acts 4:23 *When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them.*

- We return because we recognize we are *members* of a *body*.

Hebrews 10:23-25 *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.* ²⁴ *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

- We relay what happened because we need *one another*.

Romans 12:15 *Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*

The community _____ God's sovereignty
and _____ boldness.

- We remember God's sovereignty because we need to be reminded that He is in *control*.

Acts 4:24-28 *And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, ²⁵ who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,*

*"Why did the Gentiles rage,
and the peoples plot in vain?
²⁶ The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers were gathered together,
against the Lord and against his Anointed'—*

²⁷ for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

- We request boldness because we *recognize* the cost of the call.

Acts 4:29-30 *And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus."*

Luke 9:23-27 (NASB) *And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. ²⁴ For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. ²⁵ For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself? ²⁶ For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. ²⁷ But I say to you truthfully, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."*

God's Spirit _____ in power so the gospel might
continue to advance.

Acts 4:31 *And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.*