

April 11, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

**Acts 4:8-12** *Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’ Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” (NIV)*

This is one of my favorite passages in all of scripture. The reason why is that Peter had transitioned from a person who was worried about what others would say about him, to a person who stood firm for Jesus and was not motivated by anything else except the Holy Spirit. Peter and John were called before the ruling council and asked by what authority they had healed this lame beggar. Peter did not hold back his convictions. He knew that the council could have them imprisoned and punished, but he and John stood strong. Sometimes I wonder where the people like this are these days. It seems that many give way to the pressure of the world rather than stand for what is right. As my pastor friend **Dr. Rick Scarborough** says, ‘enough is enough!’

I pray that the people of God will stand up for Him and give testimony of all the great things He has done for us. This will only happen when we realize that living in His freedom is far better than existing in this world’s philosophies. It is time to stand up, speak up and show up. Look around and see that many churches have closed their doors. Is Christ powerless? Absolutely not! **Heb. 10:19-25** *Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (NIV)*

**Dear LORD, please help us to stand in courage and proclaim that there is no other name by which we must be saved! It is in Christ alone that we find our freedom and salvation. In Jesus Name, Amen**