



PULPIT CURRICULUM

Built to Last – Be confident in the Face of Opposition
January 10 – January 16, 2021

Verses of the Week: Acts 4:19-20 (ESV)

“But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, **20** for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”

1. GOING DEEPER

Acts 4:1 - 22

1a) Describe the hostile situation that Peter and John encountered. What contributed to their boldness despite the obvious opposition?

b) What does it mean to be filled by the Holy Spirit and what are some of the evidential characteristics of being filled?

2a) Discuss the biblical context of the following statements - ‘purpose over position’ and ‘Christ over self’.

b) As believers, what are some of the ways that we can reflect our walk with Christ?

3) Similar to Jesus, the Apostles and many others, persecution and opposition will occur along our Christian walk. (Matthew 5:10-12) Identify scripture references that can help us to keep a vertical focus in the face of opposition.

4) Peter and John’s boldness to defy the instructions of the Council leaders was grounded in their knowledge of Christ. (Acts 4: 18-21) State 3-4 ways that believers can enhance their knowledge of Christ.

2. ASSESS YOUR LIFE

1) How would you rate your reflection of Christ when faced with opposition?



I respond in like manner to those who are opposing me.



I know I should reflect Christ when faced with opposition, but don’t know how.



I am inconsistent in reflecting Christ when faced with opposition.



I am growing in my commitment to reflect Christ when faced with opposition.



Guided by the Holy Spirit, I speak on the basis of knowledge and reflect Christ when faced with opposition.

2) Identify factors that can hinder your reflection of Christ and your confidence when facing opposition.

3. APPLICATION

1. Identify at least three ways in which you can be confident in the face of opposition?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

2. Of the list above, which one(s) will you be intentional about working on this week?

I will ask _____ to hold me *accountable* in this.

Sermon Main Points

Sermon Reflection

- To be confident in the face of opposition:
- 🕯️ We must be filled with the Holy spirit
 - 🕯️ We must reflect our walk with Christ
 - 🕯️ We must speak on the basis of knowledge

What stood out for me in this sermon? What is something I can do to remember this?

5 Day Study Plan ("Study to show yourself Approved unto God...")

Day 1

Ephesians 5:18

What I learned (observation / interpretation):

How I will Respond (application):

Day 2

Galatians 5:16

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

Day 3

Matthew 5:10-12

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

Day 4

John 16:33

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

Day 5

Colossians 3:16

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

Inductive Bible Study



Observation (*What does the text say?*)

This phase is about observing exactly what the text is saying.

Pretend you're an investigator who's just gathering the facts. Ask yourself the five W's and H: (Who, what, where, when, why, how).



Interpretation (*What does the text mean?*)

Discover what the author is trying to communicate. And to do this, you need to look at the context to determine

- 🕯️ What is the **main theme** and what is the **meaning** of key words;
- 🕯️ Examine **cross references**
- 🕯️ Compare **translations**
- 🕯️ **Summarize** the text
- 🕯️ **Use** commentaries (last resort)



Application (*How should this affect Me?*)

Don't study the bible just for knowledge – study for application. If you stop at the interpretation stage, you are selling yourself short. Based on what you have learnt, ask yourself "How should this change the way I think, speak and behave?"

Seek to identify if there are - **Sins** to confess; **Promises** to claim; **Examples** to follow; **Actions** to obey or **Knowledge** to grow in.

For best results, this content should be read and prepared privately and then discussed in your small group or with family / friends.
We were not created to do life alone - get engaged today.