



# KINGDOM EMBASSY MINISTRIES

Remembering our Roots. Restoring Authority. Maturing Disciples. Advancing the Kingdom.

Portion:

## SCRIPTURES

- Acts 3-4
- II Cor. 5:17-21; Eph. 4:29
- Hab. 2:1-4; Deut. 18:15-19

Title:

## A PROFOUND CHALLENGE

- Perfect Soundness
- Sons of the Prophets
- Great Grace

*Do you recognize an opportunity when it presents itself? Are you the first to volunteer? Are you the type who accepts a challenge easily? Do you jump in enthusiastically? Don't think impetuous when you hear "jump in"; think instead eager, fervent and passionate. Here am I, send me! You want me to represent you? I'm in awe; I'm humbled; I'm stunned, but I'll do it! It seems that the more obvious it becomes that we are called to something magnificent and undeniable, the more some will dig in their heels and deny. Others respond instantly, not with denial but acceptance, wonderment, appreciation and utter amazement. Which type are you? Do you run towards or away from challenges?*

*Here is a grand recommendation for when you encounter a profound truth. Don't dip your toe—rather, immerse your whole body, soul and spirit! Suck the marrow from the moment. Extraordinary things happen when you do; your eyes open to possibilities not previously noticed—some of which match the magnitude of the profound truth staring you in the face with profound challenges that stand between you and the expression of that truth! Challenges have a way of pressing us through a cheese cloth, until there is hardly a bead of moisture left, like being squeezed from all sides until even taking a sip of oxygen seems elusive. But once you see it, you can't unsee it!*

*That is what it is like, at times, when your eyes open to the mysteries of God and the herald screaming in your brain becomes so loud, so clear, and so pervasive that it is impossible to imagine the plain message was a hidden secret just moments ago, but it was. You just might be a special agent assigned to the earth for such a time as this, to understand these kingdom mysteries. And, that is one of those things that fits the sentiment of this message; don't dip your toe—immerse your whole body, soul and spirit! Seize the opportunity! Suck the marrow out of it!*

*Do you want to know a secret? It's about your role in the earth at this moment in history. "In your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed." You were most certainly taught that was the unique role of Abraham. And when you suddenly discover it is not unique, that you too are called as such, it represents one of those profound truths that comes with many profound challenges. But that's okay, because great challenges are met head on with great grace, the divine power necessary to turn a challenge into a reality!*

## PROPHETIC SEED:

*"And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him **has given him this perfect soundness** in the presence of you all." Acts 3:16 NKJV*

**“You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant** which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘**And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**’ **To you first**, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.”” Acts 3:25-26 NKJV

“And **with great power** the apostles gave **witness to the resurrection** of the Lord Jesus. And **great grace** was upon them all.”Acts 4:33 NKJV

## PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is **a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has **reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ**, and has **given us the ministry of reconciliation**, that is, that God was in **Christ reconciling the world to Himself**, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us**: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, **that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**” II Corinthians 5:17-21 NKJV

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, **that it may impart grace to the hearers.**” Ephesians 4:29 NKJV

## PERFECT SOUNDNESS

### 1. More than you think!

#### A. A Lame Man is Healed (Acts 3:1-10)

(1) Not what you expected...

(a) Looking for one thing but receiving something more!

1. “Now Peter and John went up together to the temple **at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour**. And a certain man **lame from his mother’s womb** was carried, whom they **laid daily at the gate** of the temple which is called **Beautiful**, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, **asked for alms**. And fixing his eyes on him, with John, **Peter said, “Look at us.”** So he gave them his attention, **expecting to receive something from them**. Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: **In the name of Jesus** Christ of Nazareth, **rise up** and walk.” And he took him by the **right hand** and lifted him up, and **immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength**. So he, **leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple** with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God. **Then they knew** that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and **they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.**” Acts 3:1-10 NKJV

(2) Principles at Work!

(a) More than you can imagine!

1. “Now to Him who is able to do **exceedingly abundantly above** all that we **ask or think**, according to the **power** that works in us,” Ephesians 3:20 NKJV

#### B. Preaching in Solomon’s Portico (Acts 3:11-18)

(1) Why are you so amazed?

- (a) We did not do this; the God you worship did this to bring your attention to Y'shua!
1. "Now as the lame man who was **healed held on to Peter and John**, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, **greatly amazed**. So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, **why do you marvel at this?** Or why look so intently at us, **as though by our own power or godliness** we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, **the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus**, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. But **you denied** the Holy One and the Just, and **asked for a murderer** to be granted to you, and **killed the Prince of life**, whom **God raised from the dead**, of which we are witnesses. **And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong**, whom you see and know. Yes, the **faith which comes through Him** has given him this **perfect soundness** in the presence of you all. Yet now, brethren, I know that you **did it in ignorance**, as did also your rulers. But those things **which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets**, that the Christ would suffer, He **has thus fulfilled**." Acts 3:11-18 NKJV

(2) Principles at Work!

- (a) Not our power, but His power working in us...
1. "and what is the exceeding greatness **of His power toward us who believe**, according to the working of **His mighty power** which He worked in Christ when He **raised Him from the dead** and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places," Ephesians 1:19-20 NKJV
- (b) Faith—Power—Godliness
1. "Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained **like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ**: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as **His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." II Peter 1:1-4 NKJV

## SONS OF THE PROPHETS

### 2. A Higher Calling than You Thought!

#### A. A Prophet Like Moses (Acts 3:19-26)

(1) The Sons of the Prophets

(a) Repentance and beyond!

1. "**Repent therefore and be converted**, that your sins may be blotted out, so that **times of refreshing** may come from the presence of the Lord, and **that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things**, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. For Moses truly said to the fathers, '*The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet **shall be utterly destroyed from among the people***.' Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as

many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. You are **sons of the prophets, and of the covenant** which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, '**And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**' To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.'" Acts 3:19-26 NKJV

(2) Principles at Work!

(a) Key things to notice!

1. **Acts says it like this:** "And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet **shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.**" Acts 3:23
2. **Deuteronomy says it like this:** And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, **which he speaks** in My name, **I will require it of him.**" Deuteronomy 18:19
3. **Malachi says it like this:** "Lest I come and **strike the earth with a curse.**" Malachi 4:6
4. *"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. **It is to your advantage that I go away;** for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; **but if I depart, I will send Him to you.**"* John 16:7 NKJV
5. *"**"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;** for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and **He will tell you things to come.**"* John 16:12-13 NKJV

**B. Principles at Work!**

(1) Willingness to Receive the Whole Gift

(a) Your healing is not just physical!

1. "And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him **has given him this perfect soundness** in the presence of you all." Acts 3:16 NKJV

(b) God's power has provided everything you need...

1. His divine power has given to us **all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue," II Peter 1:3 NKJV
2. "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, **knowing that the testing of your faith** produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, **that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.**" James 1:2-4 NKJV
3. "Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body** be preserved **blameless** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." I Thessalonians 5:23 NKJV

(2) Willingness to Accept the Mantle

(a) You have a pedigree and the job to go with it!

1. "**You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant** which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, '**And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**' To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.'" Acts 3:25-26 NKJV

(b) How did you become the seed of Abraham?

1. **"And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."** Galatians 3:29 NKJV
- (c) Stand by, you have a job to do and the time is near. What will you do? What will you say?
1. **"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: 'Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?'"** Then I said, **"Here am I! Send me."** Isaiah 6:8 NKJV
  2. **"I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart, And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I will answer when I am corrected."** Then the Lord answered me and said: **"Write the vision And make it plain** on tablets, That he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. **Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come,** It will not tarry. **"Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith."** Habakkuk 2:1-4 NKJV
- (3) Willingness to Suffer
- (a) The message WILL NOT be popular
    1. **"And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody** until the next day, for it was already evening." Acts 4:3 NKJV
  - (b) A servant is not greater than his Master!
    1. **"Remember the word that I said to you [John 13:12-17-Foot washing], 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.** If they kept My word, they will keep yours also." John 15:20 NKJV
- (4) Willingness to Be His Ambassadors
- (a) Access God's power and testify!
    1. **"And with great power** the apostles gave **witness to the resurrection** of the Lord Jesus. And **great grace** was upon them all." Acts 4:33 NKJV
  - (b) Ambassadors of Grace!
    1. **"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,** that is, that **God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself,** not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. **Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us:** we implore you on Christ's behalf, **be reconciled to God.** For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, **that we might become** the righteousness of God in Him." II Corinthians 5:18-21 NKJV
  - (c) Impart God's Grace...
    1. **"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."** Ephesians 4:29 NKJV
    2. **"If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."** John 20:23 NKJV
    3. **"Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back,** let him know that **he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins."** James 5:19-20 NKJV

### C. Who is the Prophet Like Moses? (A deep dive!)

(1) What did Peter intend to impart to those listening?

(a) Let's review Peter's words again...

1. **"For Moses truly said** to the fathers, 'The Lord your God will **raise up for you a Prophet like me** from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet **shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.**"' Acts 3:22-23 NKJV

(b) You should recognize that Peter insinuates TWO different time periods into the ministry of Christ.

1. **"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out,** so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, \*and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." Acts 3:19-21 NKJV

2. **"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."** John 14:2-3 NKJV

(2) Let's go to the source...

(a) Notice two key elements within the Deuteronomy text! What will the prophet like Moses be like?

1. **Moses Speaking:** "The LORD your God will raise up for you **a Prophet like me** from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, **according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb** in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.' "And the LORD said to me: 'What they have spoken is good. **I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.** And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, **I will require it of him.**" Deuteronomy 18:15-19

(b) Who will be like Moses in Horeb delivering the Law?

1. **"Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb** for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And **he will turn The hearts** of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, **Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.**"' Malachi 4:4-6 NKJV

(3) **Connect the Dots...**

(a) Listen to Elijah, the prophet like Moses or...

1. **"...I will require it of him."** Deuteronomy 18:19

2. **"...every soul shall be utterly destroyed from among the people."** Acts 3:23 NKJV

3. **"Lest I come and \*strike the earth with a curse."** Malachi 4:6

### D. The Restoration of all things

(1) Y'shua will not return for a second time until the restoration of all things...

(a) What things should happen to indicate such?

1. **"And he will turn the hearts** of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, **\*Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.**"' Malachi 4:6 NKJV

2. "But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, **sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool** [from *Psalms 110:1-2*]." Hebrews 10:12-13 NKJV

(b) \*Again, notice the curse of creation that still remains...

1. "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. **For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.** For **\*the creation was subjected to futility**, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption **into the glorious liberty of the children of God.** For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now." Romans 8:18-22 NKJV

(2) Connecting Moses and Elijah and Elijah to John the Baptist

(a) Moses and Elijah at the Transfiguration

1. "Now after six days Jesus took **Peter, James, and John** his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. **And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them**, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for **Moses, and one for Elijah.**" While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; **and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"**" Matthew 17:1-5 NKJV
2. "Now **as they came down from the mountain**, Jesus commanded them, saying, **"Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."**" Matthew 17:9 NKJV
3. "And His disciples asked Him, saying, **"Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"** Jesus answered and said to them, **"Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.** But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." **Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.**" Matthew 17:10-13 NKJV
4. "For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such **a voice came** to Him from the Excellent Glory: **"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."** And **we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.**" II Peter 1:17-18 NKJV

(b) John the Baptist and Elijah at Y'shua's Baptism...

1. "In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" **For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.'** ... "{16} When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, **"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."**" Matthew 3:1-3, 16-17 NKJV

(3) Prophecy about John the Baptist

- (a) An angel prophesies about (John to be) to Zacharias (his father to be), and then Zacharias prophesies about John...**Carefully notice what John is called to do/be!**
1. "But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth **will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.**" Luke 1:13 NKJV
  2. "**And he will turn** many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. **He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,'** and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."" Luke 1:16-17 NKJV
  3. **Zacharias' Prophecy:** ""**And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest;** For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins," Luke 1:76-77 NKJV
- (b) LATER ON... when John is question about his relationship to Elijah...
1. "**Now this is the testimony of John**, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "**What then? Are you Elijah?**" He said, "I am not." "**Are you the Prophet?**" And he answered, "**No.**" Then they said to him, "**Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?**" He said: "**I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Make straight the way of the LORD,'** ' as the prophet Isaiah said." Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. And they asked him, saying, "**Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?**" John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose."" John 1:19-27 NKJV
- (4) Elijah is the **messenger** who prepares the way for the **Messenger's** (Second Coming)!
- (a) One messenger prepares the way, the other Messenger comes with a refiners fire (the Second Coming).
1. ""Behold, I send My **messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me.** And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, **Even the Messenger of the covenant,** In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts. "**But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderers' soap.** He will **sit as a refiner** and a **purifier** of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And **purge** them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness." Malachi 3:1-3 NKJV

GREAT GRACE

### 3. God's Power Rises Above the Challenge

#### A. Persecution begins: Peter and John are Arrested (Acts 4:1-4)

(1) The persecution begins...

(a) Suffering is Inevitable

1. "Now as they spoke to the people, the **priests**, the **captain of the temple**, and the **Sadducees** came upon them, **being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection** from the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already



evening. **However, many of those who heard the word believed;** and the number of the men came to be **about five thousand.**" Acts 4:1-4 NKJV

(2) Principles at Work!

(a) The way to the kingdom is through the trials...

1. "...**"We must** through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."**"** Acts 14:22 NKJV

(b) Creation is still in a state of corruption, so there will be challenges...

1. "...In the world **you will have tribulation;** but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."**"** John 16:33 NKJV

(c) Various challenges are a forgone conclusion so...

1. "My brethren, **count it all joy** when you fall into **various trials,**" James 1:2 NKJV

**B. Peter and John Address the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:5-12)**

(1) Same Old Corrupt Courts

(a) "By what power or by what name have you done this?"

1. "And it came to pass, on the next day, that their **rulers, elders, and scribes, as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander,** and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, **"By what power or by what name have you done this?"** Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit,** said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: **If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, let it be known** to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of **Jesus Christ** of Nazareth, **whom you crucified,** whom God raised from the dead, by Him **this man stands here before you whole.** This is **the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.'** **Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven** given among men by which we must be saved."**"** Acts 4:5-12 NKJV

(2) Principles at Work!

(a) Power and Authority

1. "And they said to Him, **"By what authority are You doing these things?** And who gave You this authority to do these things?"**"** Mark 11:28 NKJV

(b) Rejection: The Chief Cornerstone

1. "Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: **'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing,** And it is marvelous in our eyes'? "Therefore I say to you, **the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it."** Matthew 21:42-43 NKJV

(c) One way to eternal life!

1. "Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" But Simon **Peter** answered Him, "Lord, to **whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.** Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."**"** John 6:67-69 NKJV

**C. The Name of Y'shua is Forbidden to be Spoken! (Acts 4:13-22)**

(1) When man's rules conflict with God's laws...

(a) It is evident to all; we cannot deny it! But we will anyway!

1. "Now when they **saw the boldness of Peter and John**, and perceived that they were **uneducated and untrained** men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. And **seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it**. But when they had commanded them to **go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves**, saying, "What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that **a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all** who dwell in Jerusalem, and **we cannot deny it**. But so that it spreads no further among the people, **let us severely threaten them**, that from now on they speak to no man in this name." So they called them and commanded them **not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus**. But Peter and John answered and said to them, "**Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.**" So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed." Acts 4:13-22 NKJV

(2) Principles at Work!

(a) A notable miracle occurred, but they prefer evil over good!

1. "**Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of vanity, And sin as if with a cart rope; That say, 'Let Him make speed and hasten His work, That we may see it; And let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near and come, That we may know it.'** Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!" Isaiah 5:18-21 NKJV

(b) Threats: Doctrines and Commands of Men and Hard Hearts

1. "'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, **But their heart is far from Me**. And in vain **they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**'" Matthew 15:8-9 NKJV

(c) Bad Rulings and Governing authorities

1. "**Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities**. For there is **no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God**. Therefore **whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves**. **For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil**. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. **For he is God's minister to you for good**. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for **he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.**" Romans 13:1-4 NKJV

#### **D. Prayer for Boldness (Acts 4:23-31)**

(1) Testimony: Stand Your Ground

(a) The Unity Grows Stronger

1. "And being let go, they went to their own companions and **reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them**. So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God **with one accord and said:**

**“Lord, You are God**, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: ‘Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and against His Christ.’ **“For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed**, both **Herod** and **Pontius Pilate**, with the **Gentiles** and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and **Your purpose determined** before to be done. Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that **with all boldness they may speak Your word**, by **stretching out Your hand** to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.**” Acts 4:23-31 NKJV

(2) Principles at Work!

(a) One Accord: that they may be one just as We are one!

1. **““I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one**, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; **that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me**. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me**, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” John 17:20-23 NKJV

(b) God’s Determined Purpose: Sovereignty!

1. **“But Jesus said to him [Peter], “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?””** Matthew 26:52-54 NKJV

(c) Speak with Boldness: The Holy Spirit

1. **“So [Joseph’s] advice was good in the eyes** of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants. And Pharaoh said to his servants, **“Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?”** Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, **“Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you.”** Genesis 41:37-39 NKJV

**E. Sharing in All Things (Acts 4:32-37)**

(1) Sufficient in all things!

(a) Spiritual and Physical Provision

1. **“Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common**. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. **And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked**; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and **laid them at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need**. And Josès, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles

(which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet." Acts 4:32-37 NKJV

(2) Principles at Work!

(a) Physical Provision: Generosity—all they possessed was donated for the common good!

1. "By this we know love, **because He laid down His life for us.** And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But **whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?**" 1 John 3:16-17 NKJV

(b) Spiritual Provision: Great Power/Great Grace

1. "For **by grace you have been saved through faith,** and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God," Ephesians 2:8 NKJV
2. "Therefore, **having been justified by faith,** we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand,** and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2 NKJV

(c) Stewardship: Everyone's needs were met!

1. "And my **God shall supply all your need** according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19 NKJV