



# **Christian Faith Fellowship**

---

- We are not a perfect church**
- We are not a perfect people**
- We are here because we know we need God's help and He has provided this help through Jesus Christ our Lord!**



CFF is called to:

**Radiate the love of Christ**

**Reach the Lost and the Saved in order to**

**Restore them into fully mature followers of Christ**

## Accountability Questions

- **Did you spend at least 5 minutes a day – at least 5 days last week reading/hearing the Bible?**
- **Did you share a God story with someone this week?**
- **Did you spend time alone with God this week?**
- **What is the Holy Spirit is saying to you?**
- **Are you giving as God has asked?**

- Last week we celebrated Pentecost!
- The Promise of the Father was to fill the follower of Christ with the Holy Spirit! Power to be His witness!

**Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

**Acts 2:41** Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

- Peter – and the others were empowered by the Holy Spirit to speak boldly about Jesus – which is exactly what Jesus said they would do!
- The change was nothing they could do for themselves it was a God thing!

**Acts 2: 42** All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

- So, those who came to faith assembled for continued teaching of what it meant to be a follower of Jesus!  
They fellowshiped together & prayed!

- A bold proclamation of faith in Jesus – those that respond are baptized – then receive further instruction as to what it means to be a Christ follower! (Discipleship)

**John 8:31** Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings.

- A Christian is to remain faithful to the teachings of Jesus... which means we need to know what He taught! Which is what the discipleship process is to be about!

- **Acts 3** Peter and John are going to the Temple for a prayer service and a man that has been lame from birth is there begging and they stop – pray for him and he is healed!
- This causes a big scene as he isn't quiet about what God has done for him and everyone knew him!
- Again – people gather around and what does Peter do?

**Acts 3:12** “Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd...” (v12-Ch 4:1) He preaches Jesus boldly!

- As a result of this preaching they are arrested and put in jail - BUT it was too late - God was on the move!

**Acts 4:34** 3 They arrested them and, since it was already evening, put them in jail until morning. 4 But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so the number of men who believed now totaled about 5,000.

- When you examine the events that take place from Acts 2-4 the focus is always about Jesus!

- What Jesus said in Acts 1:8 “...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere...”
- The people who respond are being taught what it means to be Christ followers but what is happening in the streets is simply taking advantage of doors God opens to share the story of Jesus!
- The day after their arrest Peter and John are brought out of prison to be questioned before the church council

**Acts 4** 5 The next day the council of all the rulers and elders and teachers of religious law met in Jerusalem.

6 Annas the high priest was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and other relatives of the high priest. 7 They brought in the two disciples and demanded, “By what power, or in whose name, have you done this?” 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers and elders of our people, 9 are we being questioned today because we’ve done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed?”

10 Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. 11 For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, ‘The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.’ 12 There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.” 13 The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were

ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures.  
They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. 14 But since they could see the man who had been healed standing right there among them, there was nothing the council could say. 15 So they ordered Peter and John out of the council chamber and conferred among themselves. 16 “What should we do with these men?” they asked each other. “We can’t deny that they have performed a miraculous sign, and everybody in Jerusalem knows about it. 17 But to keep them from spreading their propaganda any further, we

must warn them not to speak to anyone in Jesus' name again." 18 So they called the apostles back in and commanded them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John replied, "Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him? 20 We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard." 21 The council then threatened them further, but they finally let them go because they didn't know how to punish them without starting a riot. For everyone was praising God 22 for this miraculous

sign—the healing of a man who had been lame for more than forty years.

- The council's response is *A Testimony to the fulfillment of God's promise! Bold Power in their witness of Jesus!!*
- Ignorant – ordinary people boldly proclaiming Jesus!
- The threat was real and they knew the council would carry out the threat for only a few weeks back they had crucified Jesus!
- Obedience to God's call in light of a threat to be quiet!

**Acts 4** 23 As soon as they were freed, Peter and John returned to the other believers and told them what the leading priests and elders had said. 24 When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God:...

29 And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word.

30 Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 31 After this prayer,

the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.

- Notice – they prayed for all believers to have great boldness in preaching God’s word – and that God would perform healings – signs & wonders thru the name of Jesus (v29-30)!
- The answer to their prayer? The place shook and they were filled with the Holy Spirit (again!) - “31 *Then they preached the word of God with boldness.*”

- They were filled with the Holy Spirit and boldly proclaimed Jesus!
  - This is what God said He would do and this is what continued to happen as the Holy Spirit empowered the followers to spread the word and as a result people were saved and the Church continued to grow
- Acts 4** 32 All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. 33 The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the

Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all.  
34 There were no needy people among them, because  
those who owned land or houses would sell them 35 and  
bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

- There was Unity in the believers and they met the needs of those in the body of Christ! (not the community around them but the Church family)
- This was NOT a command of God – nor a teaching of the Apostles - they gave because of the change in their heart and understanding everything is God's!

## Action Steps

- Have you been filled with the power of the Holy Spirit?
- Have you ever been re-filled?
- Have you prayed to be bold in proclaiming Jesus? (doesn't mean you won't get butterflies in your stomach)
- Have you prayed for “GOD to do powerful stuff for His glory and furtherance of the Gospel?”
- Has the Holy Spirit been speaking to you about giving?