



How To Respond When Under Attack

Text: Acts 4:1-31

Series: Book of Acts, #4

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Theme: **God provides power to defeat opposition.**

The reality of opposition.

1. The inevitable collision. (1-2)
2. The inevitable persecution. (3)

The response to opposition.

1. Boldly defend the faith. (5-12)
2. Boldly rely on God. (5-12)

The result of opposition.

1. They baffled their opponents. (13-22)
2. They prayed for their opponents. (23-30)
3. They received God's power for service. (31)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Read Acts 4:1-31 to refresh your overall view of this section that we looked at yesterday. Identify the people mentioned, their attitudes, actions and reactions to each other. Without reading your own ideas into the main figures, try to identify why they said and did what they did here.

Tuesday. Belonging to Christ brings joy, peace, and conflict. Read the first three verses of the chapter. Remembering the setting from chapter 3, why do you think we said on Sunday that the collision and persecution were inevitable? What does this incident tell you about your life and witness?

Wednesday. Peter and John responded boldly to the opposition they faced. Read and review verses 5-12. They showed respect but also boldly defended the faith, not backing down or avoiding the controversial areas, but clearly stated the truth of and in Jesus. Does our witness, your witness follow this pattern? They also boldly stepped out in faith to rely on God the Holy Spirit to direct them. List practical implications for your witness from this example.

Thursday. Today focus on the result of this first persecution of the church, noting the three results stated on the outline. The specifics may change, but the principles have not, will not change. Summarize your feelings about opposition because of the faith and how you respond to it, noting as well any changes God may be prompting you to make.

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to look at 4:32 - 5:16. Read this section in preparation for our time together.