



Shaken, Not Shaken
Acts 4:23-37

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Shaken, Not Shaken

- ❖ The Apostles were shaken by God.
- ❖ They were not shaken by circumstances.

A Spirit-filled church

- ❖ Devoted to the apostles' teaching
- ❖ Devoted to fellowship
- ❖ Devoted to “the breaking of bread”
- ❖ Devoted to prayer

Unbelief:

- ❖ What is the nature of unbelief?
 - ❖ It is usually not an intellectual debate.
 - ❖ It is more often defensive of our substitute foundations.

Unbelief:

- ❖ What are the implications for Christians?
 - ❖ Unbelief does not only trouble non-Christians.
 - ❖ Belief brings persecution.

Acts 4:23

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them.

Acts 4:24-25

“When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign LORD,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

Acts 4:25-26

“Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the LORD
and against his anointed one.’

Acts 4:27-28

“Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

Acts 4:29-30

“Now, LORD, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

Who is a servant?

- ❖ David (4:25)
- ❖ Jesus (4:27 and 4:30)
- ❖ The Apostles (4:29)



Acts 4:31

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Spirit-filled = boldness

❖ Acts 2:4

❖ Acts 4:8

❖ Acts 4:31

❖ Acts 9:17

❖ Acts 13:9

Apostle-style Prayer:

- ❖ It is intimate.
- ❖ It involves Scripture.
- ❖ It gives insight.
- ❖ It gives power.
- ❖ It promotes generosity.

Acts 4:32-33

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 4:33-35

And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Acts 4:36-37

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.

Faith + Love = Compassion

- ❖ Acts 4:36-37
- ❖ 1 John 3:17-18
- ❖ James 2:14-17
- ❖ Galatians 6:10



Acts 17:6

“These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here ...”



Acts 4:29

Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.



Threats?

- ❖ Wealth
- ❖ Freedom
- ❖ Family
- ❖ Life

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open book. The background is softly blurred, focusing attention on the hands and the text overlaid on the image.

Matthew 24:35

[Jesus]: “Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will never pass away.”

Hebrews 12:28-29

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire.”



Acts 4:31

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Earthquake = God's presence

- ❖ Exodus 19
- ❖ Judges 5
- ❖ Acts 2

Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 27:50-51

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split ...

Matthew 28:1-2

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.

1 Corinthians 15:54

When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer over an open book. The hands are positioned in the upper right quadrant, with fingers interlaced. The book is open, showing two pages, and is positioned in the lower half of the frame. The background is out of focus, showing more of the book and the person's arms. The overall tone is solemn and spiritual.

1 Corinthians 15:55

“Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?”

1 Corinthians 15:56-57

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Which earthquake will shake you?

- ❖ Will you be shaken by God?
- ❖ Will you be shaken by your circumstances?



Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper