

# THE POWER OF A CHANGED LIFE

## Persistence Amidst Resistance

ACTS 4:1-22

### I. RESISTANCE COMES because Christ threatens a person's previous \_\_\_\_\_.

*And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. vv. 1-3*

*Persist in \_\_\_\_\_ where you are, regardless of what doors seemed to be closed.  
But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. v. 4*

### II. RESISTANCE COMES because Christ threatens a person's social \_\_\_\_\_.

*On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" vv. 5-7*

*Persist in \_\_\_\_\_ on the Holy Spirit's work in you, through you, and to others.  
Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you 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 is standing before you well." vv. 8-10*

### III. RESISTANCE COMES because Christ threatens a person's future \_\_\_\_\_.

*But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, saying, "What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." vv. 15-17*

*Persist in \_\_\_\_\_ time with Jesus so you can continually speak about Him.  
So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.  
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, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." vv. 18-20*

*Persist* amidst resistance, \_\_\_\_\_ God can miraculously intervene.

*"This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.  
And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."  
Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. vv. 11-14*

# THE POWER OF A CHANGED LIFE

Home Group Discussion

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. When have you been completely shut down by someone who resisted hearing about Jesus? Did affect the way you shared Jesus with others going forward?



"Men may more than match you in subtlety of argument. In intellectual argument you may suffer an easy defeat. But the argument of a redeemed life is unassailable: 'Seeing the man that was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.'"

J. H. JOWETT

2. Read Acts 4:1-22. What is the one fact about this event involving the disciples and the paralytic that no one could dispute? How did the religious leaders try to dodge that fact?

3. How does the indisputable fact of the change Jesus made in your own life encourage you as you prepare to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you (1 Pet 3:15)?

4. What would the religious leaders stand to lose if they bowed the knee to Jesus? What would others in the crowd perceive they would lose? What have you lost, and gained, in becoming His disciple?

5. Can you share about someone God pursued for a long time, but they resisted, then they finally came to know Christ? What did you learn from that situation, and how can those things encourage others in your group?

6. Is there someone you've given up on talking about Jesus with because they've repeatedly resisted? How can you pray for them as you wait and watch to see what God will do in their life?

## A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."

For more about what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus visit [www.ccbcfamily.org/nextsteps](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/nextsteps).

## COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit [www.ccbcfamily.org/events](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/events).

**CCBC BIG BAND CONCERT** Everyone will be tapping their feet to the beat at this year's Big Band Concert, *On the Move*. Come be a part of the summer kickoff event on Friday, June 2 at 7 p.m. as the trumpets belt out captivating tunes for the whole family! To learn more visit [www.ccbcfamily.org/bigband](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/bigband).

**ELDER PRAYER** God does extraordinary things when we go to Him in prayer, and we're excited to announce a time for us to do just that with the Elders and their wives! Whether it's simply an encouragement, or we seek God together for healing, this will be an impactful and intentional time with our leadership. Be a part of this special afternoon on Sunday, May 21 at 12:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

**WOMEN IN THE WORD: OUR FAVORITE STORIES** From toddlers to adults, everyone loves stories. Whether we are telling or hearing it, each of us has a favorite one. Ready to have a new favorite? Join Women in the Word this summer as they hear life-changing stories about Jesus and press into knowing Him deeper! Find times, locations and registration by visiting [www.ccbcfamily.org/wiw](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/wiw).

**MUSICAMP** From catchy songs to choreography your children can have a week full of dancing, singing and discovering the fun of making music! By the end of the week, they'll even put on an entire musical. Find registration and locations at [www.ccbcfamily.org/musicamp](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/musicamp).

**BAND OF BROTHERS: THE GODLY MAN'S PICTURE** Are you looking to grow in your understanding of what it means to be a godly man? Come to Band of Brother's *The Godly Man's Picture*, a six-week study where we will dive into the lives of six different characters from the Bible. Through exploring their stories, we'll discover biblical principles for displaying and defining the image of God in our own lives. This series is designed to equip men with practical tools to live out their faith with courage and impact. Find dates, locations and registration at [www.ccbcfamily.org/bob](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/bob).

**BE, MAKE AND REACH WITH LIVE PRODUCTION** If you have experience and interest in live production and camera operation, we'd love to chat with you about volunteering with our Production Team. Get the conversation started by visiting [@christchapelproduction](https://www.instagram.com/christchapelproduction) on Instagram, and send us a message today!

**KIDS MINISTRY: SUMMER REFRESHER** Are you looking for a Be, Make and Reach opportunity this summer? Join our Summer Refresher Team and help so many of our dedicated Kids Ministry volunteers have a couple Sundays off. When you serve with Kids Ministry, you'll have the opportunity to build into the next generation, proclaim the gospel to eager hearts and serve our church family! Register today by visiting [www.ccbcfamily.org/refresh](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/refresh).



**LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD?** Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

**IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE.** The process is quick and easy—text CCBCONLINE to 833-422-7200 to get started.