



# THE SPIRIT: AWAKENS

Acts 4:23-32 | Ryan Pfeiffer | May 28, 2023

INTRO. “The World can no longer be left to mere diplomats, politicians, and business leaders. They have done the best they could, no doubt. But this is an age for spiritual heroes- a time for men and women to be heroic in their faith and in spiritual character and power. The greatest danger to the Christian church today is that of pitching its message too low.” — Dallas Willard.

“Hey when Spirit comes... everything will get easier... everyone will love you!”

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

The Holy Spirit comes into our life with supernatural power...

Power = dunamis = dynamite. dynamite is explosive and shakes things up.

First the Spirit shakes up the church... then the Spirit shakes the world.  
When the Church is renewed... the World is Awakened.

READ Acts 4:23-32.

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken.

The Spirit shakes up our lives so through us we God can shake up the world.  
That shaking brings spiritual awakening to culture... people turn to Jesus.

## **FOCUS. What does it look like when the Spirit shakes the church with fresh power?**

We are emboldened to **speak** boldly about Jesus.

We are empowered with **signs** that cause wonder.

We are inspired to **share** generously with those in need.

**SPEAKING BOLDY.** v29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness... vs31b And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

When we live in a culture that opposes our faith... we have to become careful not to become passive/ silent.

Spirit gives boldness... winsome + gentle... BUT... bold + honest.

Titus 3:2 be peaceable and considerate and always gentle toward EVERYONE.

Initiate Spiritual conversation. What's your religious background

Have you ever looked into Jesus' life and teaching?

Can I pray for you?

We have to be willing to risk—> rejection, awkwardness, offense.

The more in touch we are w/ God's goodness in our life... more joy.  
The more we are praying the Spirit to awaken others... more love/focus.

**SIGNS THAT CAUSE WONDER.** v30 Now stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.

Miraculous signs create wonder / curiosity in people... awakening them to spiritual reality.  
We need signs and wonders just as much today as believers did then.  
Our culture is more materialistic and humanistic than ever.

1 Cor 14:1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire the gifts of the Spirit.

1 Cor 12:7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

**SHARING GENEROUSLY.** v32 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.

Talking about Jesus and using the Spirit's power is actually not enough to spark awakening in culture.

The Spirit needs to shake up our hold on our time, talent and treasure.

Being generous isn't just about giving money... it's also about sharing our time and skills for the sake of demonstrating God's mercy.

Generosity touches people with God's mercy. Opens our life to JOY!

v24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God.