



ACTS : Doubling Down

Acts 4:23-31 | Ryan Pfeiffer | February 22, 2026

INTRO. (PPT) Review the whole narrative: Healing—> Filled.

They stand their ground and double down... instead of backing down!

If last week was about What is courageous faith... today... How do we get it?

ILLUS. SHOW PIC OF NICK. I reached out this guy to hear his story.

- Last Easter when I gave the call... 1 person stood up first...
- How'd you get to this moment?
- He started with I have a friend... Gavin... the only spiritual light in my life.
- He gave me a new testament... I started reading Jesus' life.
- On Easter... when you gave the call... my stomach dropped... scared.
- "I knew I had people around me. It's easier to do bold things when you have people who love you around you."
- It helped me begin living my faith outwardly... eg College orientation...

FOCUS. How can we grow in Courage for what God has called us to?

FIRST. Who are your people? READ 23-24a.

Notice the progression returned... reported... raised their voices together.

They didn't face threats alone— they returned to their people.

Who are your people? The people who you can return to when your up against the wall... Who stokes your faith? Who do you do that for?

God has designed us to be interdependent:

1. Eccl 4:12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.
2. Prov 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.
3. Heb 10:24 Let us consider how we may spur one another on...

Tolkien... CS Lewis... The unplayable debt that I owe to him was not "influence" as it is ordinarily understood, but sheer encouragement. He was for long my only audience. Only from him did I ever get the idea that my "Stuff" could be more than a private hobby. But for his interest and increasing eagerness for more I should never have brought the Lord of the Rings to a conclusion.

These disciples saw Jesus walk on water... Rise from the dead!

But they still needed one another... So do we...

Next Steps. 1. Men's Taco/ Prayer nite Tomorrow! 2. 150+ people committed to joining a community group... follow through!

SECOND. Is your Bible talking to you? READ 24b-28.



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Notice the disciples don't simply pray about their feelings or their problems...

They allow Scripture to reframe their perspective.

ILLUS. A difficult issue... rattled my cage... God I need a word from you! 3X's.

All thru Acts we see the church leaning on the word of God: PPT. TABLE.

Are you daily reading your Bible? Jesus said "Man does not live on bread alone but every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Next Step: Begin reading the Bible Daily. NT Plan online. Audio Bible?!

When we pray with our Bibles open before us our Bible begins talking to us.

They go from focused on threats from religious leaders to God's power/ plan

- 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

But for this to happen we have to be confident in the authority of scripture.

- 25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through... David...

It's not just David writing some cool thoughts... no... it's God's inspired word.

- (PPT) Table: Inspired. Infallible. Inerrant.

"The Word of God will be to you a bulwark and a high tower, a castle of defense against the foe. Oh, see to it that the Word of God is in you, in your very soul, permeating your thoughts, and so operating upon your outward life, that all may know you to be a true Bible-Christian..." CH Spurgeon.

Jesus himself when needed courage in the wilderness to face Satan... when he was on the cross gasping his last breaths...

He reached for God's word to breathe fresh courage into his soul.

Next Step. Let the Bible speak to your challenges.

1. Write down your situation.
2. Write down the theme(s). Conflict. Fear. Lust. Guidance. Provision. Death.
3. Search verses on that theme. Write down a couple.
4. Ask God to speak to you... what do you want me to know? and to do?

THIRD. What are you filled with? READ 29-31.

They don't leave their problems at the door... v29 Lord, consider their threats...

I hope we as a church can learn to bring the tough issues in our lives... culture into this space and pray together...



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The threats from the religious leaders loom large... the disciples don't hide it or avoid it... "hey let's not talk about that!"

Some threats are too heavy to carry on our own... we need our people... we need God's word to reframe our perspective... we need the Holy Spirit.

THREE TIMES PETER IS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

1. Acts 2:3 all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit
2. Acts 4:8 Peter filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them...
3. Acts 4:31 they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...

WHY? Why does Peter need to be filled again?

BECAUSE... when you begin to walk in courageous faith...

- There is going to be push back...
- You are going to come face to face with your limitations
- You are going to feel the risk and cost of your faith...
- Fear is going to intimidate you...

That's when we need to double down... and be FILLED AGAIN!

And get more of the Spirit's resources so you DON'T BACK DOWN!

"DOUBLE DOWN" — to strengthen your commitment to something and continue with even greater determination, especially when facing challenge or pressure.

New level new Devil! ... New Spirit. Don't fear it.

Next Steps. (Slides)

- 1) Mon Prayer 1-4 in the Chapel
- 2) March 4th... special guest from a closed muslim country teaching us prayer!

Baptism Today! Linger for a moment and encourage our people getting baptized today out in the Piazza!