

Still Called, Still Sent (4)

"A Testimony with a Long Memory"

Text: Acts 4:5–13

Introduction: The longer you walk with Jesus, the more “memories with God” you accumulate — *answered prayers, miracles witnessed, lessons learned, trials overcome by His grace.*

Your life of faith gives weight to your witness — the longer the journey, the more powerful the story.

I. A bold witness under pressure: Acts 4:5–7

A. The question - Peter and John, ordinary men, stand before elite religious leaders.

1. This was a courtroom drama – This was intimidating - the pressure was intense, but they remained faithful to Christ.
2. Cultural and religious resistance did not silence them.
3. The question was a legal question - **Acts 4:14** shows their accusers refused to acknowledge the miracle plainly.

B. The answer – Peter does not respond in anger or fear, but with courage and clarity. How? (**v.8**) Tells us how.

1. *...their boldness was rooted in a genuine experience with Jesus.*
2. They had walked with Jesus, seen His miracles, witnessed His resurrection.
3. They had a long memory of God’s works, and that gave them courage.
4. Acts 4:20: “For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

You may feel increasing pressure in today’s culture to stay quiet about your faith. Let the memory of what God has done in your life embolden you to speak with grace and courage.

II. Built on Jesus, empowered by the Spirit: Acts 4:8

“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them...”

A. Peter’s power came from the Holy Spirit - Acts 2:4 and Acts 4:31 show the filling of the Holy Spirit is ongoing.

1. There is one baptism of the Holy Spirit which takes place at conversion. (1 Corinthians 12:13)
2. But there are many fillings (Ephesians 5:18)
(This is the power behind every effective witness)

The power to speak boldly comes from the Spirit, not from ourselves.

The same Spirit who filled Peter on that day lives and desires to continually fill you and me as believers today.

B. Peter’s preaching – (vv. 8-12)

1. Peter’s preaching was Spirit led –
 - a. Luke 21:12–15: Jesus promised the Spirit would give believers words when under persecution.
 - b. John 14:26: The Holy Spirit will teach and bring to remembrance what Jesus taught.

2. Peter’s preaching was scripture based -

- a. Acts 4:10: Peter declares, “...by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.”
- b. Acts 4:11: “This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.” (cf. Psalm 118:22)

These men who were experts in the Old Testament Scriptures knew that the "rock" was a symbol of God (Deut 32:4,15,18,31; 2 Sam 22:2; Ps 18:2; Isa 28:16)

- c. Acts 4:12: “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

God has no age limit for usefulness. The longer you've walked with Him, the more the Spirit can draw upon your experience and understanding of Scripture to empower your witness. And a testimony with a long memory stays centered on Jesus.

III. A life that proves the message: Acts 4:13

Their lives bore the unmistakable imprint of Christ.

A. The examination – The council couldn’t deny the miracle,

B. The evidence - But more than that, they couldn’t deny the transformation in Peter and John.

C. The experience - Their credibility came from spending time with Jesus and living out His teachings consistently. (2 Corinthians 3:2) People can argue with your doctrine and opinions, but they cannot dismiss a life lived consistently for Christ.

Consider these biblical examples:

- Caleb (Joshua 14:10–12)
- Anna (Luke 2:36–38):
- Polycarp: Faithful for 86 years; declared, “How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?” even at the threat of death.

Your long journey with Jesus speaks volumes. You don’t need a seminary degree or title – a faithful life is a sermon all by itself.

Living Out Your Legacy

1. Mentor someone younger Titus 2:3–5; Serve in new ways there are many places in the church to serve – \
2. Share your testimony (Psalm 71:18)
3. Pray and persevere in faith (Psalm 92:14–15)

Conclusion: You are “Still Called, Still Sent.” (Proverbs 16:31)

- Your testimony, seasoned by years of faith, is powerful. Let the world see that you have “been with Jesus.”
- Share your long memory of His goodness. Someone needs to hear it.

What are some of your "long memory" moments with God that could encourage someone else this week? Who can you tell?