

We Can Get Bolder Under Pressure

WE > ME, Week Three

The world is filled with people in pain. They were already all around us before the spread of coronavirus, but the pain people are in is amplified and multiplied right now.

What do we have for a world that is hurting?

We can help with physical needs, but that's limited.

We can help with emotional needs, but that's also limited.

We can give people the hope of the good news about Jesus and the effects are eternal!

Acts 3:1-10 NIV

[1] One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. [2] Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.

[3] When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. [4] Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" [5] So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. [6] Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

[7] Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. [8] He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

[9] When all the people saw him walking and praising God, [10] they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Don't ever believe that what you have to offer the world is somehow insignificant. If you've been saved by the grace of Jesus, you have a powerful, life-changing story to tell that makes all the difference in the world for people!

When the church gets going, so does the opposition.

Acts 4:1-7 NIV

[1] The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. [2] They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. [3] They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day.

[4] But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand. [5] The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. [6] Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. [7] They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

Satan gets upset when the church goes about the work of the ministry, the warfare of prayer, and the mission of telling people about Jesus.

Adversity comes.

Challenge comes.

Opposition comes.

And while I, alone, might struggle to stay strong in the face of opposition...

We can get BOLDER when the pressure is on!

Acts 4:8-12 NIV

[8] Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! [9] If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, [10] then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.

[11] Jesus is " 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.' [12] Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

And then, after they'd been released and had gathered with the church again...

Acts 4:31-33 NIV

[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. [32] 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.

[33] With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all

HOW WE GET BOLDER UNDER PRESSURE...

1. We keep our hearts broken for the cause of lost and broken people.

We HAVE to keep going for their sakes.

2. We lean into the power of the resurrected Christ through the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

We CAN keep going because God will enable us.

3. We remember that what we're doing matters for future generations and for eternity.

Let's get bolder! Let's share Jesus with people. WE can do this together!