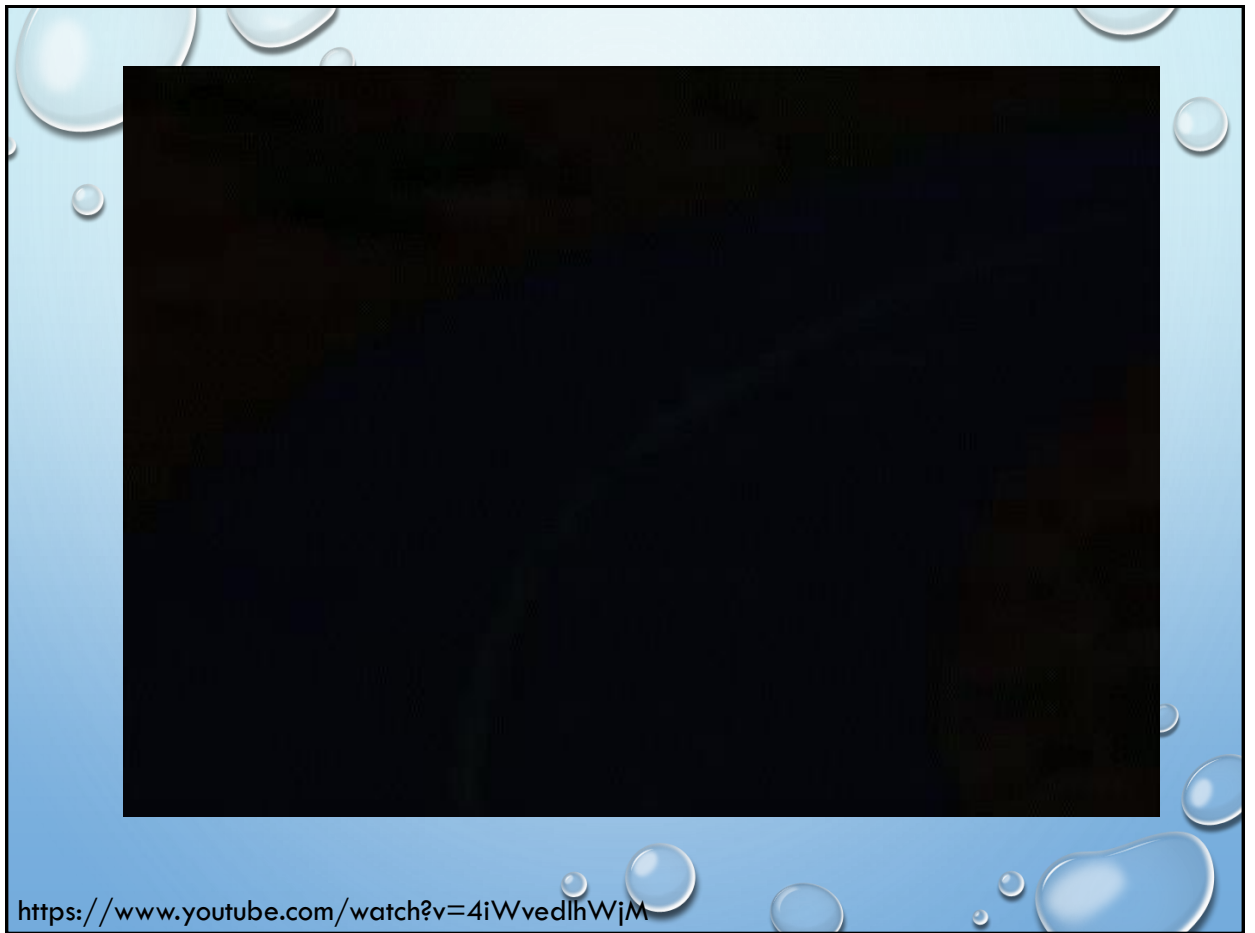




# LIVING WITH PURPOSE

MAINTAINING MOMENTUM



# BOLDNESS

- LAST WEEK WE WITNESSED REMARKABLE BOLDNESS FROM THE APOSTLES
  - KNOWING THEY FACED A TRIAL THAT COULD END IN THEIR DEATH THEY BRAZENLY AND KNOWINGLY COMMITTED A NUMBER OF CAPITAL OFFENSES IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE GOSPEL
  - WHEN WARNED, THEY EVEN MORE BOLDLY PROMOTED THE GOSPEL

## CONFIDENCE

- THEY WERE CONFIDENT BECAUSE THEIR HEARTS AND MINDS WERE CENTERED ON THE CROSS
- THEY WERE CONFIDENT BECAUSE THEY WERE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT
- THEY WERE CONFIDENT BECAUSE THEY HAD EXPERIENCED THE GRACE, POWER, AND LOVE OF GOD

## CONFIDENT NOT COMPLACENT

- ACTS 4:23-31 SHOWS THAT THEIR CONFIDENCE DID NOT DECAY INTO COMPLACENCY
  - THEY DIDN'T REST IN THEIR GOOD START
  - THEY ACTIVELY DID THINGS THAT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS MAINTAINING MOMENTUM

## MAINTAINING MOMENTUM

- TODAY'S PASSAGE REVEALS FOUR STEPS WE NEED TO TAKE IF WE HOPE TO MAINTAIN OUR MOMENTUM AFTER A GOOD START
  1. GIVE TESTIMONY OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE (4:23)
  2. WORSHIP GOD FOR HIS PROVIDENCE (4:24A)
  3. ACKNOWLEDGE GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY (4:24B-28)
  4. PRAY FOR CONTINUING PROVIDENCE (4:29-30)

## 1. GIVE TESTIMONY OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

- <sup>NAS</sup> **ACTS 4:23** AND WHEN THEY HAD BEEN RELEASED, THEY WENT TO THEIR OWN COMPANIONS, AND REPORTED ALL THAT THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND THE ELDERS HAD SAID TO THEM.
  - LIT., "WENT TO THEIR OWN"
  - OWN = *PECULIAR, SEPARATE, DISTINCT*
  - FIRST HINT THE CHURCH IS A SPECIAL SEPARATE GROUP DISTINCT FROM THE REST OF ISRAEL

- GIVING TESTIMONY OF OUR EXPERIENCES TO FELLOW BELIEVERS COMFORTS, TEACHES, STRENGTHENS AND ENCOURAGES THEM

- <sup>NAS</sup> **2 CORINTHIANS 1:3** BLESSED *BE* THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE FATHER OF MERCIES AND GOD OF ALL COMFORT; <sup>4</sup> WHO COMFORTS US IN ALL OUR AFFLICTION SO THAT WE MAY BE ABLE TO COMFORT THOSE WHO ARE IN ANY AFFLICTION WITH THE COMFORT WITH WHICH WE OURSELVES ARE COMFORTED BY GOD.



- <sup>NAS</sup> **PHILIPPIANS 2:19** BUT I HOPE IN THE LORD JESUS TO SEND TIMOTHY TO YOU SHORTLY, SO THAT I ALSO MAY BE ENCOURAGED WHEN I LEARN OF YOUR CONDITION.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **COLOSSIANS 4:8** FOR I HAVE SENT HIM TO YOU FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE, THAT YOU MAY KNOW ABOUT OUR CIRCUMSTANCES AND THAT HE MAY ENCOURAGE YOUR HEARTS;
- <sup>NAS</sup> **1 THESSALONIANS 5:11** THEREFORE ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER, AND BUILD UP ONE ANOTHER, JUST AS YOU ALSO ARE DOING.

- GIVING TESTIMONY IS AN EXPECTED PART OF OUR CALLING AND PURPOSE AS CHRISTIANS

- <sup>NAS</sup> **MATTHEW 24:14** "AND THIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM SHALL BE PREACHED IN THE WHOLE WORLD FOR A WITNESS TO ALL THE NATIONS, AND THEN THE END SHALL COME.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **2 TIMOTHY 1:8** THEREFORE DO NOT BE ASHAMED OF THE TESTIMONY OF OUR LORD, OR OF ME HIS PRISONER; BUT JOIN WITH ME IN SUFFERING FOR THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE POWER OF GOD,

- <sup>ESV</sup> **1 JOHN 5:10** WHOEVER BELIEVES IN THE SON OF GOD HAS THE TESTIMONY IN HIMSELF. WHOEVER DOES NOT BELIEVE GOD HAS MADE HIM A LIAR, BECAUSE HE HAS NOT BELIEVED IN THE TESTIMONY THAT GOD HAS BORNE CONCERNING HIS SON. <sup>11</sup> AND THIS IS THE TESTIMONY, THAT GOD GAVE US ETERNAL LIFE, AND THIS LIFE IS IN HIS SON.
- <sup>ESV</sup> **REVELATION 12:11** AND THEY HAVE CONQUERED HIM BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB AND BY THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY, FOR THEY LOVED NOT THEIR LIVES EVEN UNTO DEATH.

## 2. WORSHIP GOD FOR HIS PROVIDENCE

- <sup>NAS</sup> **ACTS 4:24** AND WHEN THEY HEARD *THIS*, THEY LIFTED THEIR VOICES TO GOD WITH ONE ACCORD ...
  - THE TESTIMONY OF THE APOSTLES SPONTANEOUSLY RESULTED IN THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION WORSHIPPING GOD
  - WE SHOULD WORSHIP GOD FOR HIS PROVIDENCE
  - OUR TESTIMONY WILL LEAD OTHERS TO WORSHIP GOD FOR HIS PROVIDENCE

## OUR CHIEF PURPOSE

- WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM
  - **Q. 1. WHAT IS THE CHIEF END OF MAN?**
    - A. MAN'S CHIEF END IS TO GLORIFY GOD, AND TO ENJOY HIM FOREVER.
- <sup>ESV</sup> **PSALM 86:9** ALL THE NATIONS YOU HAVE MADE SHALL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, O LORD, AND SHALL GLORIFY YOUR NAME. <sup>10</sup> FOR YOU ARE GREAT AND DO WONDROUS THINGS; YOU ALONE ARE GOD.

- <sup>NAS</sup> **ROMANS 11:36** FOR FROM HIM AND THROUGH HIM AND TO HIM ARE ALL THINGS. TO HIM *BE* THE GLORY FOREVER. AMEN.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **1 CORINTHIANS 6:20** FOR YOU HAVE BEEN BOUGHT WITH A PRICE: THEREFORE GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **1 CORINTHIANS 10:31** WHETHER, THEN, YOU EAT OR DRINK OR WHATEVER YOU DO, DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD.
- <sup>ESV</sup> **REVELATION 4:11** "WORTHY ARE YOU, OUR LORD AND GOD, TO RECEIVE GLORY AND HONOR AND POWER, FOR YOU CREATED ALL THINGS, AND BY YOUR WILL THEY EXISTED AND WERE CREATED."

### 3. ACKNOWLEDGE GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

- <sup>NAS</sup> **ACTS 4:24** ...AND SAID, "O LORD, IT IS THOU WHO DIDST MAKE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM, <sup>25</sup> WHO BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, *THROUGH* THE MOUTH OF OUR FATHER DAVID THY SERVANT, DIDST SAY, 'WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE, AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS? ...

- <sup>26</sup> 'THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD, AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.' <sup>27</sup> "FOR TRULY IN THIS CITY THERE WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THY HOLY SERVANT JESUS, WHOM THOU DIDST ANOINT, BOTH HEROD AND PONTIUS PILATE, ALONG WITH THE GENTILES AND THE PEOPLES OF ISRAEL, <sup>28</sup> TO DO WHATEVER THY HAND AND THY PURPOSE PREDESTINED TO OCCUR.



- THIS HAS BEEN A RUNNING THEME IN ACTS

- <sup>NAS</sup> **ACTS 2:23** THIS MAN, DELIVERED UP BY THE PREDETERMINED PLAN AND FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD, YOU NAILED TO A CROSS BY THE HANDS OF GODLESS MEN AND PUT *HIM* TO DEATH.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **ACTS 3:18** "BUT THE THINGS WHICH GOD ANNOUNCED BEFOREHAND BY THE MOUTH OF ALL THE PROPHETS, THAT HIS CHRIST SHOULD SUFFER, HE HAS THUS FULFILLED.

- THIS IS A RUNNING THEME THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE
  - <sup>NAS</sup> **PSALM 115:3** BUT OUR GOD IS IN THE HEAVENS; HE DOES WHATEVER HE PLEASES.
  - <sup>NAS</sup> **PSALM 135:5** FOR I KNOW THAT THE LORD IS GREAT, AND THAT OUR LORD IS ABOVE ALL GODS. <sup>6</sup> WHATEVER THE LORD PLEASES, HE DOES, IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH, IN THE SEAS AND IN ALL DEEPS.
  - <sup>NAS</sup> **1 CHRONICLES 16:25** FOR GREAT IS THE LORD, AND GREATLY TO BE PRAISED; HE ALSO IS TO BE FEARED ABOVE ALL GODS.

- THE ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD IS THE ONLY REASON HIS LOVE, MERCY, AND GRACE WILL NEVER FAIL
  - <sup>NAS</sup> **ISAIAH 46:5** "TO WHOM WOULD YOU LIKEN ME, AND MAKE ME EQUAL AND COMPARE ME, THAT WE SHOULD BE ALIKE ...<sup>9</sup> "REMEMBER THE FORMER THINGS LONG PAST, FOR I AM GOD, AND THERE IS NO OTHER; *I* AM GOD, AND THERE IS NO ONE LIKE ME, <sup>10</sup> DECLARING THE END FROM THE BEGINNING AND FROM ANCIENT TIMES THINGS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN DONE, SAYING, 'MY PURPOSE WILL BE ESTABLISHED, AND I WILL ACCOMPLISH ALL MY GOOD PLEASURE'!

## 4. PRAY FOR CONTINUING PROVIDENCE

- <sup>ESV</sup> **ACTS 4:29** AND NOW, LORD, LOOK UPON THEIR THREATS AND GRANT TO YOUR SERVANTS TO CONTINUE TO SPEAK YOUR WORD WITH ALL BOLDNESS, <sup>30</sup> WHILE YOU STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND TO HEAL, AND SIGNS AND WONDERS ARE PERFORMED THROUGH THE NAME OF YOUR HOLY SERVANT JESUS."

## OBSERVATIONS FROM THE PRAYER

- THEY KNEW THE DEATH THREATS WERE REAL
  - *“LOOK UPON THEIR THREATS”*
- THEY DESIRED TO CONTINUE TO PREACH THE GOSPEL YET RECOGNIZED THEIR DEPENDENCE ON GOD
  - *“GRANT TO YOUR SERVANTS TO CONTINUE TO SPEAK YOUR WORD WITH ALL BOLDNESS”*
- THEY WANTED TO CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE THE POWER AND GRACE OF GOD
  - *“WHILE YOU STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND TO HEAL, AND SIGNS AND WONDERS ARE PERFORMED THROUGH THE NAME OF ...JESUS”*

## THE OUTCOME

- <sup>NAS</sup> **ACTS 4:31** AND WHEN THEY HAD PRAYED, THE PLACE WHERE THEY HAD GATHERED TOGETHER WAS SHAKEN, AND THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND *BEGAN TO SPEAK THE WORD OF GOD WITH BOLDNESS.*

- THEY GOT EXACTLY WHAT THEY PRAYED FOR; *“GRANT TO YOUR SERVANTS TO CONTINUE TO SPEAK YOUR WORD WITH ALL BOLDNESS”*
- THEY WITNESSED THE POWER OF GOD; *“THE PLACE ... WAS SHAKEN”*
- THEY WERE FILLED WITH THE POWER OF GOD; *“THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT”*

## REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

- IMAGINE IF GOD ANSWERED OUR PRAYERS LIKE THAT?
- WHY DOESN'T GOD ANSWER OUR PRAYERS LIKE THAT?



# CONCLUSIONS



# CONFIDENCE

- WE START WELL WHEN IN FAITH WE LIVE OUT THE BOLDNESS THAT COMES FROM GODLY CONFIDENCE
  - CONFIDENCE BECAUSE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS ARE CENTERED ON THE CROSS
  - CONFIDENCE BECAUSE WE ARE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT
  - CONFIDENCE BECAUSE WE HAVE EXPERIENCED THE GRACE, POWER, AND LOVE OF GOD

## MAINTAINING MOMENTUM

- WE CAN MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF OUR BOLDNESS WHICH STEMS FROM GODLY CONFIDENCE WHEN WE TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS
  1. GIVE TESTIMONY OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE
  2. WORSHIP GOD FOR HIS PROVIDENCE
  3. ACKNOWLEDGE GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY
  4. PRAY FOR CONTINUING PROVIDENCE