

A LIFESTYLE OF EVANGELISM: LESSONS FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

# **THE BOLD CHURCH**

**ACTS 4**

BRETHREN - EARLY CHURCH



# **THE STORY SO FAR (AS TOLD BY DR LUKE)**

**LUKE 23** THE DEATH OF JESUS

**LUKE 24** THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

**ACTS 1** THE ASCENSION OF JESUS

**ACTS 2** HOLY SPIRIT COMES AT PENTECOST

**THE GROWING CHURCH** // PS LOW KOK GUAN



**ACTS 3** THE FIRST MIRACLE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

**THE RELEVANT CHURCH** // ELDER LOK VI MING

*Lame man healed • Peter & John proclaim Jesus at Solomon's Porch*



**ACTS 4** PETER AND JOHN BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN

**THE BOLD CHURCH**





**IN ACTS 4, WE SEE THE FAITH THE DISCIPLES HAD,  
WHICH RESULTED IN THOUSANDS BEING SAVED**

**1. BOLD FAITH**

**2. PERSONAL FAITH**

**3. SPIRIT-FILLED FAITH**



# 1. **BOLD FAITH**

**ACTS 4:1** As they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, **2** being greatly troubled because they taught the people and **preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.**

**3** And they seized them and put them in custody, for it was already evening. **4** **But many of those who heard the word believed,** and the number of the men grew to about five thousand.

**5** On the next day their rulers, elders and scribes **6** were assembled at Jerusalem with Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John and Alexander, and all who were of the family of the high priest.

**7** When they had stood them in the midst, they asked, **“By what power or by what name have you done this?”**



# 1. BOLD FAITH

**ACTS 4:8** Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: **9** If we today are being examined concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, how this man has been healed, **10** be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that **by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands before you whole.**

**11** **He is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’**

**12** “There is no salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

**13** When they saw the **boldness** of Peter and John ...

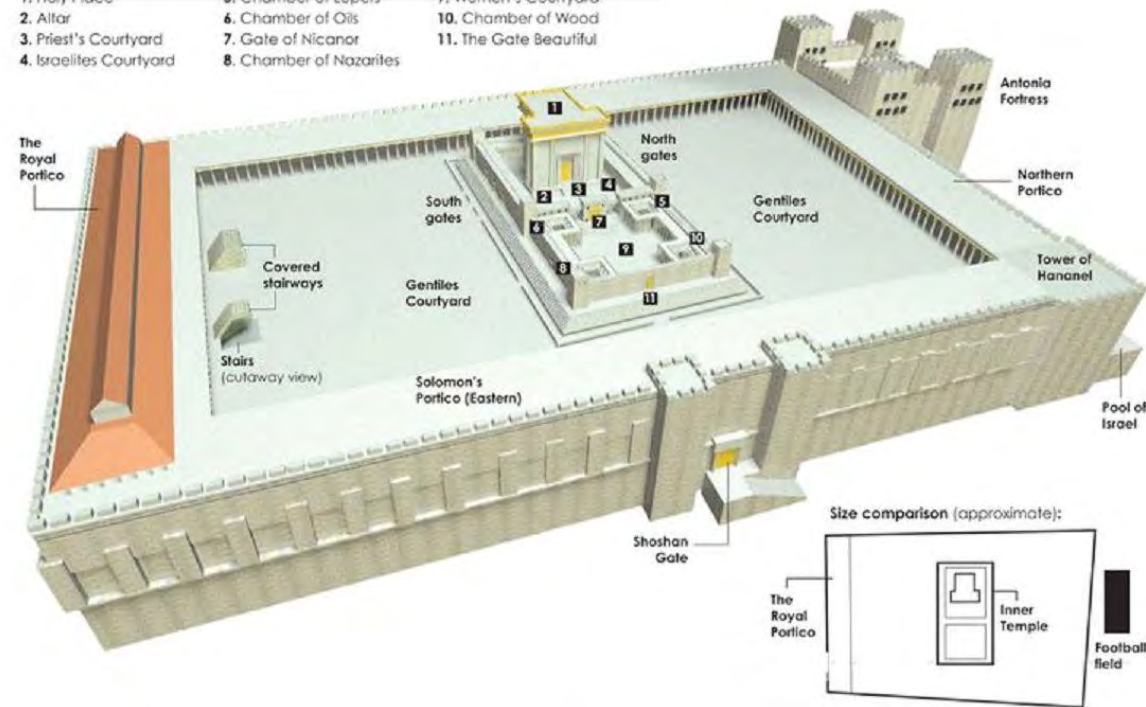


# 1. BOLD FAITH

## Herod's Temple

King Herod the Great began renovations on the Second Temple approximately 20-19 BC. The entire temple wasn't completed until approximately 62-64 AD, only to be destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.

- |                         |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Holy Place           | 5. Chamber of Lepers    | 9. Women's Courtyard   |
| 2. Altar                | 6. Chamber of Oils      | 10. Chamber of Wood    |
| 3. Priest's Courtyard   | 7. Gate of Nicanor      | 11. The Gate Beautiful |
| 4. Israelites Courtyard | 8. Chamber of Nazarites |                        |



**ACTS 4:11** He is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the **cornerstone**.'

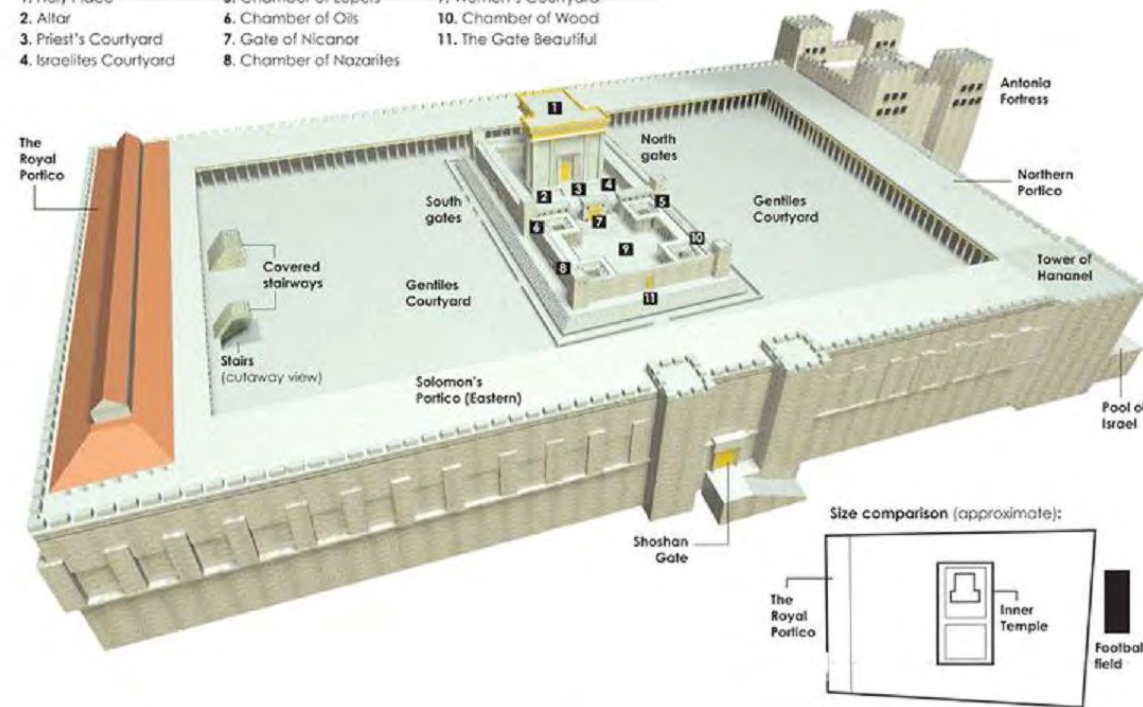
**PS 118:22** "The stone that the builders rejected has become the **cornerstone**."

# 1. BOLD FAITH

## Herod's Temple

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**MATT 21:42-43** Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the **cornerstone**’ ... Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.”

**EPH 2:19-20** You are members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself the chief **cornerstone**.



# 1. BOLD FAITH

The events of Acts 4 take place *just a few weeks after ...*

**the disciples** saw their promised King and Messiah arrested;  
**Peter** had denied knowing Jesus not once, but three times;  
**John** stood by Mary, watching her son Jesus die on the Cross;  
**a remnant of 120 disciples** were holed up in the Upper Room.

Now they were BOLD enough to preach the name of Jesus,  
even in the face of the same hostile crowd who had Jesus **killed**,  
even though they were **seized** and held in custody,  
even when they faced **the high priest** and elders at their temple.

And the ONE MESSAGE they had (more urgent than their self-defence):

“There is no salvation in any other, for there is no other name  
under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (4:12)

Their BOLD PROCLAMATION led 5,000 to believe in Jesus!



# 1. BOLD FAITH

**WHERE DID THEY FIND THEIR BOLDNESS/CONVICTION?**

**4:7** When they had stood them in the midst, they asked, “By what power or by what name have you done this?”

**1. WHAT POWER? THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!**

**4:8** Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, said to them ...

>> *Their Pentecost Experience + the miracle in Acts 3*

**2. WHAT NAME? THE NAME OF JESUS!**

**4:2** ... they taught the people and preached through Jesus the **resurrection from the dead.**

>> *Their Personal Experience: Jesus, Lazarus ...*



# **1. BOLD FAITH**

**IS THE PRODUCT OF OUR**

**PENTECOST EXPERIENCE** (Also in 4:13-22)

**(ENCOUNTER WITH THE SPIRIT)**

**& PERSONAL EXPERIENCE** (Also in 4:23-31)

**(REVELATION OF THE TRUTH**

**ABOUT JESUS CHRIST)**



## **1. BOLD FAITH**

*The disciples were **BOLD** in their faith because they were filled with the Spirit and with the knowledge of Jesus as the resurrected King.*

**WHAT ABOUT US?**



## 2. PERSONAL FAITH

**ACTS 4:13** When **they saw** the **boldness** of Peter and John and perceived that they were illiterate and uneducated men, **they marvelled.** And **they recognised** that they had been with Jesus. **14** But seeing the man who was healed standing with them, **they had nothing to say against it.**

**15** So when they had commanded them to go outside of the Sanhedrin, they conferred among themselves, **16** saying, "What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that **an acknowledged miracle** has been done through them is revealed to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and **we cannot deny it.**

**17** "But lest it spread further among the people, let us threaten them that they no longer speak to anyone in this name."



## 2. PERSONAL FAITH

**ACTS 4:18** Then they called them and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. **19** But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.

**20** “For we cannot help but declare **what we have seen and heard.**”

**21** When they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people.

**For all glorified God for what was done, 22** for the man on whom this miracle of healing was performed was over forty years old.



## 2. PERSONAL FAITH

Those watching *may have denied* that Jesus was the Messiah. But there was something all the onlookers *could not deny*:

The transformation in the followers of Jesus.

**4:13** When they saw the boldness of Peter and John and perceived that they were illiterate and uneducated men, they marvelled. And they recognised that they had been with Jesus.

**4:14** But seeing the man who was healed standing with them, they had nothing to say against it. **4:16** "Indeed, an acknowledged miracle has been done, revealed to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it."



## 2. PERSONAL FAITH

### LESSON #1

You don't have to be "educated" to be an evangelist!  
Your qualification is **if you know Christ!**

### LESSON #2

People can dispute your theology – "theoretical" God –  
but they can't argue against your **personal experience**,  
or against **personal transformation** evidenced by all.

### LESSON #3

If we have truly been touched & transformed by Christ,  
**"we cannot help but declare** what we have seen and heard"!





## **2. PERSONAL FAITH**

**IS WHEN OUR**

**PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF JESUS**

**IS SO REAL AND POWERFUL**

**THAT WE CANNOT HELP BUT**

**PROCLAIM JESUS!**





## **2. PERSONAL FAITH**

**IN OTHER WORDS ...**

**“WE CANNOT HELP  
BUT DECLARE WHAT  
WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD!”**



**PUBLISH PEACE**

**ENCOUNTERING JESUS IN THE**

**DIGITAL SPACE**

# **#PUBLISHPEACE**

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

**EVANGELISM THROUGH**

**PUBLISH SALVATION**



## PUBLISH PEACE

Edric Sng

December 11, 2021 · 🌐



## ENCOUNTERING JESUS IN THE

Frankly, I'm amazed to still be here musing about turning 42. Edric at 16 assumed he'd be dead by 25. Or 30, max.

If you know me, you'll know my life was for the most part without hope, without anchor, and without meaning.

I was a man without purpose – without peace.

Thanks for sticking with me. As I turn 42, I'd like to let you know: I'm not there any more.

Edric at 16 would be amazed by Edric at 42. It's nothing to do with achievements, accomplishments, accoutrements. It's the fact that I've found peace.

Peace! It is the most surreal experience. To have the angry mob in my soul finally appeased. To find a lifelong melancholy finally simmering to silence. To no longer feel that bitter lip of that copper spoon grinding away at my heart.

How? Jesus.

It took me the better part of 42 years to find Him. Now the rest of my days will be spent trying to persuade others that nothing beats Jesus.

If you'd like to hear more about my journey to finding peace, hit me up. I can't wait to tell you more in person.

PUBLISH PEACE

ENCOUNTERING JESUS IN THE

DIGITAL SPACE

***IN 2022,  
WILL YOU COMMIT TO  
#PUBLISHPEACE***

***BY SHARING YOUR  
TESTIMONY AT LEAST ONCE  
ON YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA?***

SOCIAL MEDIA

EVANGELISM THROUGH

PUBLISH SALVATION





**WHAT DOES THE BOLD CHURCH,  
EFFECTIVE IN EVANGELISM, LOOK LIKE?**

**1. BOLD FAITH**  
THE CONVICTION OF THE SPIRIT

**2. PERSONAL FAITH**  
THE CONSEQUENCE OF SALVATION

**3. SPIRIT-FILLED FAITH**  
CONFIRMED WITH **SIGNS & WONDERS**

### **3. SPIRIT-FILLED FAITH**

**ACTS 4:23** On being released, they went to their own people and reported what the chief priests and elders had said to them.

**24** When they heard this, **they lifted their voices in unity to God** and prayed, "Lord, You are God, who has made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, **25** and who by the mouth of Your servant David said:

'Why did the nations rage, and the people devise vain things?

**26** The kings of the earth came, and the rulers were assembled together against the Lord and against His Christ.'

**27** "Indeed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were assembled together against Your holy Son Jesus whom You have anointed, **28** to do what Your hand and Your counsel had foreordained to be done.



### **3. SPIRIT-FILLED FAITH**

**ACTS 4:29** "Now, Lord, look on their threats and grant that Your servants may **speak Your word with great boldness,** **30** by stretching out Your hand to heal and that signs and wonders may be performed in the name of Your holy Son Jesus."

**31** When they had prayed, **the place where they were assembled together was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.**

**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 ...**

# 3. SPIRIT-FILLED FAITH/CHURCH

## 1. IS UNITED IN PRAYER & PURPOSE

**4:24** "They lifted their voices **in unity** to God and prayed ..."

**4:32** All the believers were one in heart and mind.

## 2. IS UNSHAKEN AMID PERSECUTION

**4:29** "Now, Lord, **look on their threats** and grant that Your servants may speak Your word with great boldness."

## 3. IS UNSTOPPABLE IN THE PROCLAMATION

**4:31** "When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness."

**4:33** 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.





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## 81-year-old CEO and evangelist to 300,000 strong crowd

Janice Tai // June 4, 2019, 4:53 pm



Mr Thio preaching at a rally in Gujranwala in 2017-8. "I want to die while preaching the Gospel!"



“God, let me go one last time to preach the Gospel”: The late Thio Gim Hock when told his time on earth was limited

*THE LATE THIO GHIM HOCK. AS TOLD BY PS DEREK HONG:*

Six months ago I met him in his office and he told me his blood condition had deteriorated. His time was running out.

If your doctor says to you tomorrow that your time is running out, what would you do?

He told me he prayed: “God, let me go one last time to (this restricted country) and preach the Gospel to the people there.”

The place he wanted to go to was a very dangerous place. The militants there throw grenades into churches, set Christian homes on fire. They shoot up congregations and assassinate people who disagree with their extreme ideology ...





## 81-year-old CEO and evangelist to 300,000 strong crowd

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Mr Thio preaching at a rally in Gujranwala in 2017-8. "I want to die while preaching the Gospel!"



“God, let me go one last time to preach the Gospel”: The late Thio Gim Hock when told his time on earth was limited

**Gim Hock said, at this final stage of his life: “I want to go back there again.”**

**Almost immediately after the prayer, his phone rang. The caller said: “Hello, I am so-and-so, high commissioner of that country. Your visa is ready for collection.”**

**Gim Hock and his wife went and preached to thousands of people in a stadium.**

**They came back with reports of many hundreds turning to follow Jesus Christ, many miracles of healings.**

**Before I was born again I was a church attender**





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CONFIRMED WITH SIGNS & WONDERS

## **ACTS 4:29-31**

***"Now, Lord ... grant that Your servants may speak Your word with great **boldness**, by stretching out Your hand to heal and that signs and wonders may be performed in the name of Your holy Son Jesus."***

***When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with **boldness**.***