

## “CHURCH, IT’S TIME TO WAKE UP & BUCK UP!” (Acts 4)

Pastor Mark Johnson

July 2, 2023

**INTRO:** On this 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, America’s freedom is under attack, including our religious freedom. It’s time for the church to wake up & buck up (Rom. 13:11; Joel 3:9-10)! Our government is trying to become our god, and it will come with strings attached, including threats and attacks against our freedom and our faith. Let’s look briefly at how the early church responded to similar circumstances.

1. We’re called to be Christ’s witnesses (martyrs) by the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).
2. Be saved from this perverse generation (Acts 2:40)!
3. A part of Peter’s sermon (Acts 3:19-23):
  - A. Repent and be converted (v. 19a).
  - B. Times of refreshing from God’s presence (v. 19b).
  - C. Times of restoration [not deterioration] (v. 20).
  - D. The return of Christ (v. 21).
  - E. Do whatever Jesus says or be destroyed (Acts 3:22-23; Deut. 18:15, 18-19).
4. The governing authorities arrested the apostles for preaching Jesus (Acts 4:1-4).
  - A. They’re threatened by the church’s truth and influence.
5. Peter & John’s boldness from being with Jesus (Ac. 4:13).
6. They threatened & tried to censor the apostles (v. 17-18).
7. We must obey God rather than men (Acts 4:19-20; 5:29).
8. The importance of being part of a praying community of like-minded Jesus followers (Acts 4:21-37).
  - A. They didn’t pray for God to remove the threats but rather for boldness, healings, signs & wonders.
  - B. The place was shaken, they were filled with the Holy Spirit & spoke the word of God with boldness (4:31).
9. They continued ministering in great power (Acts 4:33-34; 5:12, 14).

**CONCLUSION:** It’s time for the church to wake up and buck up! We need to be full of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)! We must obey God rather than man! Will you do your part?