

What's It Like to Be on the Other Side of GBC? --Part 3

Text: Acts 4:32-36; Chapter 5

I. Pervasive Principle of Spiritual Power: We must be _____(_____ _____) before we can be _____ with spiritual power.

First Recorded Prayer of the Church

Now Lord, enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness...stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus. (Acts 4:29-30)

II. "Self on the Shelf" Applied

Acts 4:32

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

1. "Self on the Shelf" Looks Like _____

No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. 34 There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), 37 sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.--Acts 4:32b-37

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2. "Self on the Shelf" Looks Like Radical _____ &

Principle: If you have wealth you should not feel _____ --you should feel _____.

Principle: God takes _____ in the church _____.

Acts 5:27-41

27 Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. 28 "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood."

29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men! 30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead—whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. 32 We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

33 When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.

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34 But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. 35 Then he addressed them: "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. 36 Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. 37 After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. 38 Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. 39 But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."

His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Acts 5:40

*The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.
--Acts 5:41*

**3. "Self on the Shelf" Looks Like a _____, _____
_____ for Christ**

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HOMEWORK

1. Ask God to reveal to you areas of your life where you are selfish.
2. Ask God to show you what kind of impact you could have with “self on the shelf” living.

3. List baby steps to boldness:

- Share your faith story with a fellow Christian and ask them for feedback.
- Contact your HR department/school administrators for their policy on Bible Study groups in the workplace.
- Ask a friend how you can pray for them this week.
- _____
- _____

Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.--Acts 5:42

Resources

Deep and Wide by Andy Stanley

Big Church, Big Prayers by Andy Stanley

The NIV Application Commentary, Ajith Fernando

Acts: The Daily Bible Study by William Barclay