

## **Christ Will Build His Church: God's Promise Through Peter**

**God's Promise: "I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it." (Matthew 18:16)**

**My Promise: I will align my life with God's forever family.**

### OPENING

Jesus will build His church. It is his job to do the building. It is our job to join him in his work. God's plan has always been this: to employ common people in his uncommon cause. People are the hands and feet of Jesus. People are his ambassadors. People are his answer to the hungry and his response to the discouraged. People. Common people. Tax-collecting, fish-catching, bread-baking, path-walking people. He could have used angels. He could have created a super-human species of evangelistic robots. He could have deputized lions and cheetahs and eagles, but he chose people. Jesus is building a community of people who offer an "amen" to Simon's confession. Leaders will come and go. Church buildings will fall into ruin. However, the Church of Jesus Christ, built on the person of Jesus, will prevail

### THE BUILT CHURCH TESTIFIES – Acts 4.7-12

One of the main characteristics of the "powerful" church (remember last week's lesson about the Holy Spirit) is that it has the power of testimony. When Peter and John are before the counsel, they were not before them without evidences. The lame man who had been healed in chapter 3 was standing before them. That evidence gives the opportunity to testify. That is the sequence of a powerful testimony. The transformed life of each believer is turned into an opportunity to witness to the community. Some have been healed, others restored, others transformed totally.

The circumstances do not matter. The testimony always ends, "in the name of Jesus Christ...because of him, this man is in our presence healed!" (Verse 10) The church testifies this: "in no other is there salvation, because there is no name under heaven give to man, by which we can be saved." (verse 12)

## A GOOD TESTIMONY LEAVES THE ENEMY SILENT – Acts 4:13-18

What do people do when they see your life transformed? Those who have an honest heart will give God glory and will give their heart to Christ (reference Act 4:4 “many who had heard the word, believed.”) Those who have a hard heart remain silent. There is nothing better than to see “boldness”. When there is passion and conviction about what has happened, the belief and authority of the church is elevated. (Verse 13) People become aware that the church has been with Jesus. Better said, Jesus had been with the church.

Our testimony is not so that we can compete, or contend. Our testimony is so that Jesus can be exalted. When Jesus is exalted and the people are transformed, those who surround us “will not be able to say anything against us.” (Verse 14) Their only recourse will be to intimidate and threaten. That is the only weapon that the enemy has; to try to intimidate the church. (Verse 18)

## THE CHURCH WILL NOT RETREAT – IT ADVANCES – Acts 4:19-22

We live in a world that says to us, “you are unable to”. However, the church gets up declaring, “it is better to obey God before obeying you.” (verse 19).

Today there are many challenges, but the church does not depend on arguments and logic. The work of the Lord in the middle of it all is enough. Challenges come. Confusion surrounds us. Antagonism has always been around, but that does not determine the advancement of the church.

Because the world cannot find evidence of wrongdoing or bad intentions, it has to allow the church to continue to testify. What will be the results? “Everyone glorified God for what had been done.” (verse 21) Not only for what had been done, but also for what will be done!