

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“God of the Impossible” – Series

~READ TEXT~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to [\(Acts 4:1-31\) NLT](#)

~LET'S PRAY~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled todays message: **“Frontal Assault.”**

~INTRO~

IT'S BEEN SAID... THAT...

*“One of the greatest needs in the church today
is the witness of lame men who are standing whole...”* (Chuck Smith)¹

NOW [\(Acts 4\)](#)...

- Is the continuation of the miracle done to the lame man...
 - Who had been sitting at the gates of the Temple in Jerusalem.

[\(Acts 3:26\)](#) CLOSED OUT...

- With Peter & John explaining to the people...
 - How Jesus was the one who would...
 - Take away their sin!

BUT...

- As the story goes on...
 - We see the focus change from the miracle of God...
 - To the PERSECUTION of the saints!

HERE'S WHAT OUR TEXT SAYS:

- Read [\(Acts 4:1-12\) NLT](#)

WELL...

- The first *observation*...we can make... is that people are disturbed...
 - At the work DONE in the name of Jesus!

¹ Chuck Smith Commentary on Acts. Peter & John Arrested (p.61). Published by The Word for Today © 2013.

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IDEA #1 – PERSECUTION: (vv.1-12) NLT

CHURCH... RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES...

- Our Country is seeing a ***frontal assault from Satan!***
 - So it might be helpful to recognize his agents & tactics.

JESUS SAID IN (John 8:44) NLT

- The sons of Satan...
 - Are people that love to do evil – ***murder***.
 - They hate truth AND lie as part of their make-up.

LUKE SAYS IN (Acts 13:10) NLT

- Sons of Satan are...
 - Full of all deceit & fraud.
 - Enemies of all that is good.
 - People that pervert the ways of the Lord.

PAUL ELONGATES THE DESCRIPTION IN (Rom. 1:21-32) NKJV

- As people who...
 - Suppress truth.
 - Their minds are dark & confused.
 - They indulge in homosexual sex.
 - Their lives are full of greed, hate, envy, murder, deception, their heartless, gossips, malicious, backstabbers, & they invent new ways to sin.

BUT... HERE'S THE CRAZY PART...

- Christians are buying into these ways.

EXAMPLE:

- *The Satanic Temple* website...
 - Expresses these values for Satan followers...
 - 1) Empathy
 - 2) Reason
 - 3) Advocacy
- They have congregations... small groups...
 - And here are their core values (show slide)²

² The Satanic Temple website sourced on 04/01/2023 from <https://thesatanictemple.com/pages/about-us>.

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OK LET ME PUT THIS IN ACTION...

- So you can see how it hinders God's people.

- **Heckle:** (Neh. 4:3) (Acts 2:13)
- **Harass:** (Neh. 4:8 & 6:9) (Acts 4:3)
- **Frighten:** (Neh. 6:9) (Acts 4:18)

IN SPITE OF ALL THIS DARKNESS...

- We're to remember this one truth (Matt. 16:18) NLT
- God wins!!!

IDEA #2 – POWER: (vv.13-22) NLT

(v.7) *who gave you this authority?*

- It's the same question they asked to Jesus.
- (Matt. 21:23) NKJV

WE ANSWER THE QUESTION...

- This way (Matt 28:18-19) NKJV.

NEXT... (vv.16-17)

- *miracle* – semeion #4592 = also means “sign.”

It's not that the RULERS couldn't believe the evidence...

- It's that they wouldn't believe!
- This is a picture of... A hard-heart... & locked in WILL.

(John 12:37-43) NLT

IDEA #3 – PRAYER: (vv.23-31)

(vv.24-25)

PRAYER & WORSHIP...

- Gives us perspective and strength!

CONSIDER THIS...

The church can do much more thru prayer than thru a public demonstration. The world gathers with signs to chant and protest. But the church is to kneel before the Lord our God our maker.

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(2 Chronicles 14:11) NKJV

(Isa. 40:29-31) NLT

(Eph. 6:10-12) NLT

~IN CLOSING~

LET ME UNDERSCORE THE BIG IDEAS:

- 1) Persecution
- 2) Power
- 3) Prayer

THIS CHAPTER REMIND US...

- That God wants to work in us AND thru us...
 - In greater ways then we can imagine.

JESUS SAID... (John 14:12) NLT

BUT...

- There is a real enemy who can only be overcome by prayer!
 - (2 Cor. 10:3-5) NLT

Obstacles:

- Divorce hurts.
- Financial frustrations.
- Health related problems.
- Dull heart toward God.
- Stuck in a sinful situation.

GOD WANTS TO HELP YOU!

~COMMUNION~