

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 today's 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) <sup>1</sup>*

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!

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<sup>1</sup> 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*) <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> 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 Gods 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 than 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 ~**