



# Exercising Freedom

**“And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them” (Acts 4:23).**

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“And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. 24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: 25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? 26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. 27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, 28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. 29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, 30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. 31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:23-31).

It is often said that freedom brings responsibility and choices. What a person chooses to do with his/her freedom speaks a lot about his/her character. When a person is forced by circumstances beyond his/her control into a certain situation, that does not tell us much about the character of the person. However, if the same person in freedom chooses to be in that situation, then it tells us a lot about his / her character. For example, if under persecution, a believer is unable to attend church, it does not reveal much about his/her character. However, if the same person in a moment of freedom voluntarily chooses to engage in other activities at time for church service, then it reveals a lot about the quality of his/her spirituality.

- 1) “Being let go, they went to their own company” (vs 23). Birds of a feather flog together.
- 2) They “reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them” (vs 23). “they that feared the Lord spake often one to another” (Malachi 3:16)
- 3) Corporate prayers steeped on the word of God ensued (vs 24-30). Their prayers also reveal their understanding of:
- 4) God as the maker of heaven and earth and all

**“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. For brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.” (Galatians 5:1, 13).**

that in them is (vs 24).

- 5) The events of the day as not mere coincidence but prophetic fulfilment (vs 25)
- 6) The persecution they encountered was actually opposition towards Jesus Christ, the anointed one of God (vs 26-28)
- 7) Their activities were allowed and moderated over under the overruling hand and pre determined counsel of God (vs 28), confirming the fact that nothing happens by chance, and nothing takes God by surprise.
- 8) Their understanding of the scriptures empowered their prayers - “And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, 30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus” (vs 29-30).
- 9) Their prayers were instantly answered “And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness”.

We need to heed Paul’s admonition to believers in Galatians 5:13 “For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another”.

Gaining and retaining freedom brings along the responsibility to do the right things. May God help us use our freedom aright.