

# Acts 4:1–22

## The All-Conquering Power of Jesus

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**Main idea:** Jesus's power conquers all, so let us have it as the power that gives and grows our spiritual life!

<sup>1</sup> Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, <sup>2</sup> being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup> And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. <sup>4</sup> However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.

<sup>5</sup> And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, <sup>6</sup> as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. <sup>7</sup> And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, "By what power or by what name have you done this?"

<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: <sup>9</sup> If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, <sup>10</sup> let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.

<sup>11</sup> This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' <sup>12</sup> Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

<sup>13</sup> Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. <sup>14</sup> And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. <sup>15</sup> But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, <sup>16</sup> saying, "What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. <sup>17</sup> But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name."

<sup>18</sup> So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. <sup>20</sup> For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." <sup>21</sup> So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. <sup>22</sup> For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.

**Introduction:** "By what power or by what Name have you done this?" It's not just the healing of the cripple in which the power of Jesus was on display.

### 1. Power over spiritual death

- a. Sadducee party disturbed by the supernatural, i.e. the resurrection. They opposed the resurrection and the religious life of the soul.
- b. But the power of the resurrection demonstrated in more than just the healing of the physical cripple, v4.
  - i. "Many of those who had heard the word believed"—a multitude of spiritual cripples had been brought from darkness into light, from opposition to Christ to faith in Christ, from death to life.
  - ii. "The number of the men came to about five thousand." The church as a whole probably numbers at least 20,000 at this point. And the church's zeal to baptize new members outpaced the Sadducees' zeal to put apostles on trial.

### 2. Power over physical death

- a. Power for a good deed done to a helpless man, v9, 10c.
  - i. The deed was good. It was a measure of repeal of the fall; death in his legs had been turned back. He was "saved" (end of v9).
  - ii. The man was no longer helpless... Now he "stood." Now he was "well."
  - iii. Peter himself is a spiritual recipient of such work... the Holy Spirit specifically chose him as the one to speak and carried him along to speak.
- b. Power to overthrow the most wicked of deeds done to the most powerful Man, v10a–b
  - i. Not a trial defense, but an evangelistic opportunity: "let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel" ... when you have opportunity to tell about the power of Jesus, aim at all who are needy of that power.
  - ii. "the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth." ... Yahweh saves ... the anointed One ... and a specific One... not just an idea (or feeling), but a Person—He Who is both Lord and Christ (cf. 2:36). The power of Jesus is only for those who are trusting in the correct Jesus.
  - iii. They were guilty of rebelling against and crucifying the Christ. But God had raised Jesus from the dead (cf. Jn 2:19, 5:26, 10:18; Rom 1:4, 8:11, 1Pet 3:18). The unconquerable power of Psalm 2.

### 3. All power on earth (and in heaven)

- a. The church cannot be built any way but God's, v11. The Lord assigns some to be builders, but not all that they build is the church. Ps 118:22
- b. Those who build another way will find themselves left out altogether. Ps 118:10–24 (cf. Ps 2); Isaiah 28:14–18; Matt 21:42–46.
- c. The church is built by way of salvation. Same thing offered to all at end of v12 that had been done to the cripple, according to end of v9
- d. It's not just that there is *great* power in Jesus. It's that there is power *only* in Jesus. What Peter says about Jesus on earth in v12, Jesus says is true about Himself even in heaven in Matt 28:18.

### 4. Power to open and shut mouths

- a. Power to open believers' mouths, v13, 19–20 ... even despite threats (v17–18, 21a). A bold believer is one in whom the power of Jesus is on display. A joyful, content believer is one in whom the power of Jesus is on display.
- b. Power to shut opposers' mouths, v14–17, 21b–22. The inability of the council to overcome the apostles' testimony is a primary feature of this passage. It is a primary feature of Acts as a whole (cf. 28:30–31). It is a primary feature of all believers throughout the age of the gospel (cf. Rev 12:11, 17).

**Conclusion:** If you are resisting the gospel of Who Jesus is and what Jesus has done, if you are resisting the fact that apart from salvation that is entirely by His power and His goodness, you are crippled and dead, then surrender! It will be far better to have your resistance overcome by the power of Jesus now in this life, than to have Him defeat your resistance to His gospel and His church in this world and then eternally crush your resistance in the next.

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)**

Acts 4 versus 1 through 22. These are God's words Now as they spoke to the people, the priests the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came, upon them being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus. The resurrection from the dead and they laid hands on them and put them in custody until the next day.

Florida was already evening, However, many of those who heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about be about 5,000 and it came to pass on the next day that their rulers elders and scribes as well as honest, the high priest, cautious, John and Alexander.

And as many as were of the family of the High Priest were gathered together at Jerusalem. And when they had set them in the midst, they asked by what power, or by what name, have you done this? Then Peter filled with the Holy Spirit said to them, rulers of the people and elders of Israel.

If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man. By what means he has been made. Well, let it be known to you all and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus, Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified whom God raised from the dead, by him.

This man stands here before you hold. This is the stone, which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief. Cornerstone nor is their salvation in any other first there for, there is no other name under heaven given among men, by which we might must be saved. Now, when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled, and they realized that they had been with Jesus and seeing the man who had been healed standing with them.

They could say nothing against it, but when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they convert among themselves. Saying, what shall we do to these men for indeed than a notable? Miracle has been done through them as evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem and we cannot deny it.

But so that it spreads no further among the people Let us severely threaten them that from now on they speak to no, man in this name. So they called them and commanded them, not to speak at all, nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, Whether it is right in the sight of God, to listen to you more than to God, you judge for.

We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and hurt. So when they had further threatened them, They let them go finding no way of punishing them because of the people, since they all glorified God, for what had been done for the man was over 40 years old on whom this.

Miracle of healing had been performed as far. The reading of God's inspired and an errant word, We rejoice that he whose power, we hear proclaimed. Even in this passage is the one who blesses us to us. Now, the preaching of that word, Please be seated.

Sometimes in a passage such as next. Lord's Day evenings, sermon passage from Exodus. The Lord gives us a vocabulary hint as to understanding what to see and what to understand what to take away from the passage. So in next Lord, say afternoon Lord willing the passage in Exodus, they're the language of keeping and even the language of an Omer is repeated in such a way as to draw attention to those two things and that has shaped.

What we'll be hearing, God willing next Lord's Day afternoon And sometimes There is a key question or challenge somewhere in the passage that helps us. See what is there? Not just in specific answer to that but throughout the passage and that's the case with the portion that's before us this morning in these 22 verses.

But specifically in verse 7, and when they had set them in the midst, they asked by what power or by what name, Have you done this? And the passage is full of the power of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, not just the power, by which the man who had been crippled for 40 years and whom all Jerusalem, you and whom all Jerusalem knew had been crippled and is now standing in the council, not just the power, by which he had been healed, but even the power by, which he had been saved, as we'll find out in the passage And the power by which, the rest of Israel was to hear that they may be saved the power, by which alone.

We maybe saved the power by, which he that is. Jesus had risen again from the dead and had promised and signified to all who trust in him. That we also would rise from the dead. The power not over. Not only over there for the physical death of the, the crippling that was part of that, physical death, but all of our physical death, the power over the spiritual death of those who had come to faith as a result of this miracle and the sermon that they had heard in last week's portion And who heard that they were crucifiers of the Christ and yet the Holy Spirit, using the word that they heard preached had given them spiritual life.

As we heard last week and hear a little bit more about and versus three and four today. In fact he has all power on earth. And as we hear that in the passage, we're reminded that he himself. Had said that about himself and that he has all the power in heaven and then in the last portion of the passage this morning as the leaders are scrambling, to try to be able to say, or do anything.

They recognize that his power is what has opened the mouths of these apostles with boldness and they find themselves powerless because by his power He has shut the mouths of his enemies. And so the power of Jesus and the power of the name of Jesus is all throughout this passage and we're much helped then, by that key.

Question in verse 7, that enables us to see, really, what is being displayed here And what is being displayed on the whole in the book of Acts, because the Lord Jesus had risen again from the dead with power. And he had told them that this is what was written all along that, the the Christ must suffer and on the third day, rise again and that repentance and remission of sins.

Forgiveness should be preached in his name to all the nations beginning in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria into the ends of the earth. And that's what happens in the book of Acts. Isn't it as the whole book? Even concludes with a, an apostle, an house arrest, but a gospel that is completely unfettered.

And so the power of the Lord Jesus is the subject before us this morning and probably some of this afternoon Power over spiritual death, Power over physical death, all power on earth, and power to open and shut mouths First, then Power over spiritual death, The Sadducees were disturbed because they didn't think very spiritually.

We can see their disturbing as they and that is Peter and John spoke to the people, the priests the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus. The resurrection from the dead. Now the the Sadducee party was a minority party in Israel, but they held the positions of authority.

They the priests were almost entirely from the Sadducee Party. They didn't believe in angels. They didn't believe in the eternality of man's soul. They were very earthly minded. Their idea of the kingdom was entirely human control in the present time which they thought they had done pretty well obtaining by their collusion with Rome and with Herod and their ability to retain control of the the priestly apparatus.

The religious organization in the city of Jerusalem. But as often happens even today, and maybe even heightened all the more by the media that we have and the social media that we have, there were a few key things that were points of disagreement between them and the Pharisees who as far as the Judaism went were in the majority party and did believe in eternal souls and did believe very much in the importance of righteousness and holiness and did believe in the such a thing, as angels.

And even in the resurrection, later in this book, one who had begun as one of these Pharisees and whom the Lord had marvelously converted and turned into the apostle, with whom much of the rest of the New Testament, as primarily concerned, He will be on trial and he'll notice that there are Pharisees and said she's there and he'll declare the midst of his trial.

I'm on trial for the hope of the resurrection so that the majority party of the Pharisees will say. Yeah, he's probably right. You said you see's. He in fact, an angel whom you guys reasonable it really believe ever do anything. An angel probably told him And there will be a riot in the court and that'll work in his favor.

But it doesn't seem to be working In Peter and John's favor just now, because the Sadducees are greatly disturbed, they hear about the resurrection from the dead and their opinion, about Peter and John. And their opinion about Jesus is immediately formed, It's identity politics. It's not something that's exclusive to American civil politics.

One of the things that I'm grateful for there are many of them, the Lord bringing me to Hopewell and into the ARP. Is that in the prior denomination? The denomination of my prior congregation that. I served you. If you said the wrong thing to another minister at a Presbyterian meeting or a general assembly meeting and they found out that, you know, they had their list of of theological topics and they're just listening for which camp are you in?

And if you just came down on the wrong side, they would recognize you as being from the other camp and they would be hostile to whatever you said, or whatever you did is very hard thing. Well, that's what happens to Peter and John and the preaching of Jesus here at the beginning of our passage, They are greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus.

The resurrection from the dead similar to how the apostle Paul later on will go places and he'll preach and they'll hear him willingly until he says something like that. The, that salvation and the gospel, the good news of salvation is also for the Gentiles and those who had heard him thus far, will suddenly be in a rage because whatever else you're going to say, don't say that they're salvation for Gentiles.

Well they the Sadducee party is disturbed by the supernatural and especially the resurrection, But as the power of the resurrection that is on display, not just in the fact that this cripple has been healed, but that many of those who heard the word believed verse 4, Many of those who heard the word believed.

So the Sadducees try to exert some human power. In verse 3, they lay hands on them and they put them into custody until the next day for it was already evening. But the divine power of God, through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ has had its effect and they can't lay hands on that, and they can't put that in prison.

However, verse 4, many of those who heard the word believed a multitude of spiritual cripples had been brought from darkness into light from a murderous opposition to Christ some some weeks ago, a couple of months ago at this point to faith in Christ, Many of those who had heard the word and had been spiritually, crippled and dead before.

The preaching had begun, the spirit had used that preaching in an exerted. The resurrection power of Jesus Christ and brought them from spiritual death to spiritual life. In fact, a great, many have now been saved. You remember in chapter two, what we heard was that there were 3,000 souls, that were added to that original hundred.

Twenty making a 96% of the church at that point, the new converts. But it's not soul's now that our numbered at 5,000 in verse 4, The number of the men and they use the, the gender-specific, the sex

specific word, man, came to about 5,000 and it's talking about menace, particularly as heads of households.

When you're gonna talk about numbering the people and numbering the men, or at least those who are of military eligibility. So, probably the the church in Jerusalem. At the end of verse 4 numbers, at least 20,000. And so, the power of God is displayed in giving these 20,000 plus spiritual life.

If the Sadducees were worried about people, believing that there is such a thing as a soul and that spiritual things are real. And if the word resurrection was a trigger for them. They were in great trouble. Now because the spiritual power of the Lord, Jesus Christ was on marvelous display And it was even on display in the zeal of this church.

You see that the Sadducees wanted to put the apostles on trial, but oh it's already evening and We're not supposed to conduct trials at night which didn't really stop anybody when it came time to try Jesus at night, just a couple months ago, but but there are all these things that they don't have enough zeal to overcome for putting the apostles on trial.

But as far as baptizing, the new believers into the membership. So that the number of the men comes to be about 5,000 and the membership role here being kept, especially according to the heads of households and the zeal of the church to baptize these new believers outpaced, the zeal of the Sadducees to put the apostles on trial.

So, not only had spiritual life been given but that spiritual life was expressed in diligence and zeal. And you and I who are troubled about our own laziness in spiritual things, our own lack of diligence our own lack of zeal. We see here that the Lord Jesus Christ by his resurrection power applied to us by the work of His.

Holy Spirit is what gives that diligence, what gives that zeal. And so when we read in Scripture about the struggles, that believers continue to have like Paul does and Romans chapter 7, we can say with him. When we ask, who will save me from the body of this death, we can say thanks.

Be to God through Jesus Christ. My Lord. And we could turn the page into chapter 8, and say the spirit of life, gives me zeal and diligence to keep God's law, out of love for him to be led by the Spirit and put to death, the deeds of the body.

Indeed as the Apostle in that letter says in chapter 6 of that letter, Yes, I was crucified with Christ and the law cannot kill me anymore because that death has already happened. But I've also been raised with Christ. I've been raised by his resurrection. I'm able to walk in newness of life.

And so the very resurrection that the Sadducees were so disturbed about here disturbed at hearing about, is that, by which the church is walking in newness of life and responding now to the preaching of the gospel and zealous that the sign of Christ and his church and the pouring out of His Spirit and the washing of his blood would be applied to those who have been added to their number, Jesus has power over spiritual death.

Jesus also has power Over physical death When they had set them in the midst. In verse 7, they asked them by what power by what name have you done this. And then Peter filled with the Holy Spirit says to them rulers of the people and the elders of Israel.

If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man by what means he has been made? Well, and some of you may have inter-linears or the ability to see very easily that the word at the end of verse 9 is saved A word that is often used with the healings that the Lord Jesus does in the gospels.

So, reading that a little bit more literally then, and it doesn't make your reading of the gospels. All the more marvelous when you read the word saved, instead of healed and all the places that it is there. If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man.

By what means he has been saved. You see all sickness all disease, all injury, all death As a result of the fall, The Lord created all things very good. This is one of the this is one of the things that makes the idea of evolutionistic thinking completely incompatible, not just with the literary form and the teaching of Genesis 1, 2 and 3, which it is completely incompatible with Genesis 1 through 3.

But it's incompatible with the gospel that there was a first Adam and that sin is that through which death came. There is no room in the scriptures for billions of years or millions of years of death. Because death came into the world, through sin That man's crippled legs outside the temple were a reminder that the first Adam sinned.

And that in him, we had all sinned and that in him, we had all died. You know, our allergies, you know, living in Tennessee, where you will be perpetually petrified. If you pay attention to what the experts on TV say about symptoms because any symptom, you can get from almost any other disease.

You can just get from Tennessee vegetation and confuse it, But even those allergies, are they not a reminder that the ground? Now, produces thistles and thorns and weeds, Are they not part of the fall? And so, this man's sampling as it were Reminder, as it were of physical death in the uselessness of his legs.

Even from birth, a little bit of the fall was repealed in his case Turn back for a little while. Yes, his legs would be in a grave, not many years from then, but that which had been dead as a result of sin and death, and the fall was now alive.

And he was standing with the apostles, not sitting before them as they were on trial. He was standing there with them. He had been saved. Not because he was standing but because he had believed he had believed and he was saved. And his standing was a sample of that, which he looked forward to.

Yes. Sorry. Sadducees in the resurrection of the dead that he would have in the Lord. Jesus Christ, who is the bread of life, who came down from heaven, for the life of the world, and he who believes in him, the Lord Jesus will raise him up. He says in the last day, It's very important that we remember that.

We have a whole Savior who has won for us a whole salvation, not just some spiritual parts of salvation that we would be given the ability to believe and that we would be given faith. And that we would be made righteous before God in Christ and adopt it and then be start being conformed to Christ being made more like him.

So that, when his he who has begun the work has finished the work in his day. We will be holy and we will see him as he is, and we will perfectly enjoy him forever, Wonderful, spiritual things, but the perfect employment of him forever. Includes the repeal of physical death because that forever, with Jesus, is in a new heaven and a new earth and glorified resurrected bodies with which we will glorify and enjoy God in everything that we do forever and ever.

He has power over physical death. This man was no longer helpless. Now he stood now he was saved. Let it be known to you all and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus, Christ of Nazareth whom you crucified whom God raised from the dead.

By him, this man stands Stands here before you whole just to say, well sound healed. Peter himself is a recipient of the work of God over, physical death, and Excuse me, and especially spiritual death. Verse 8, then Peter filled with the Holy Spirit said to them before Pentecost. There's really one occasion upon which we're cheering when Peter speaks, Most of the rest of the time.

Peter's speaking is as not a good thing and yet, God had given him to be the one who recognized that Jesus is the Christ. The Son of God. And Jesus says, God is the one who gave that to you. Now, you have Peter and John there. And when the disciples wanted to pick somebody, to, to ask Jesus something at the last supper, They didn't pick Peter.

Did they pick? They picked John but it was Peter whom the Holy Spirit fills and Peter whom the Holy Spirit uses. His he has been a recipient of the power of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit, this power of Jesus was also power to overthrow not just CN and death generally but power that he showed in over his own physical death.

The most wicked of deeds had been done to the holy and righteous and most powerful of men, let it be known to you all and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus, Christ of Nazareth whom you crucified whom God raised from the dead. By him, not just by his name, But by him himself, who was alive by him whom death could not keep dead by him who now sits physically bodily at the right hand of majesty in that place where God most displays His glory?

Where our gathered, the holy angels. And the souls of the just made perfect by him. This man is made. Well, You were disturbed that we were preaching in Jesus. The resurrection from the dead, You probably shouldn't have asked us by what power this man has been made. Well, because that's the resurrected Jesus, who has healed this man, and it's the resurrect to Jesus, who will heal us even every believer in the cemetery will get their healing.

And it will not be a fraud, and it will not be temporary. There are many churches in which you can go or to which you can go and witness fraudulent healings and temporary of that The ones in which the Lord Jesus rules, His healings are real, and they are forever.

Even if you have to wait until the resurrection. And if you're doing the calculus on real times, infinity versus fake times, temporary, There's no comparison. Is there the physical healing? The physical power of Jesus is infinite. So this was not just a trial defense then because the power that Jesus had displayed in raising this man to his feet and in raising sinners from the dead on the day of resurrection, to come was not merely a power by which Peter and John hope to get off without punishment at their trial.

Notice what they say, Let it be known to you all and to all the people of Israel and a couple things happening there is aren't there One. If you thought we were going to stop talking then you're you're going to be disappointed. That's going to become an issue later in the passage obviously.

But this is something that all Israel is to hear. We are not going to stop talking because all Israel needs the salvation with which this man has not just been raised to his feet, but also saved And so they recognize and evangelistic opportunity. Now, you may have opportunities to tell about the power of Jesus.

People want to know why aren't you in a panic? Why are you doing that righteous thing that we have been forbidden to do or refusing to do that wicked thing that we have been commanded to do. There will be opportunities in your life if you live. According to the Word of Jesus Christ by the grace of Jesus Christ, making you to live that way.

You will have opportunity and you need to see that when they say we cannot but speak of the things that we have seen and heard that applies to you, too. You have not physically. Seen the resurrected Lord, Jesus Christ. But if you were a believer in him, you are already a recipient.

Aren't you of his resurrecting power in your spiritual life and the more zeal and love that He gives you for his name, the more he enables you to walk encourage and faith and hope that the world does not have, you will get opportunities to give an answer for that hope.

And remember it is fearing men. Instead of God, If you at that point, when you have that opportunity, do not speak of what you have experienced, what you have seen and what you have heard, We are under obligation by the experience of Jesus, and his power to speak of Jesus and his power Apostles.

You are not but resurrected ones. If you believe in Jesus Christ, you are and you need to speak for him. By his resurrection you have been uncrippled, undead spiritually. And even look forward to the same physically. One day The name is important here. Let it be known to you all and to all the people of Israel that by the name is very specific of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified.

Whom God raised from the dead. His name, Jesus is Yahweh saves, there are other Jesuses. There is a Jesus justice. Even in, even in the New Testament, there are even today in this world Many, especially if you if, you know people who are Hispanic, you probably know a man named Jesus.

Who cannot save you. You have to get Jesus, right? Believing in an idea of Jesus is not the same as believing in the person who is literally physically resurrected from the dead and sitting on the throne of heaven. You're believing in a person. Not a theological construct, not a feeling that you get every once in a while.

If you sing enough choruses in the in the right lighting and the right way and and you have a emotive high That does not save you. Although there are many, who have been trained and sincerely go after it to think that Jesus is something that they experience, when they get to that point Do not be deceived.

It is nearly a set of ideas, nor an emotional experience, but a particular person who grew up in Nazareth one who is the Christ. The anointed One he alone can save you. The one who Peter has just preached from Joel. Chapter 2 is both Yahweh and Christ In chapter two and verse 36 of the book of VATS, You see the power of Jesus to save.

There's only for those who are trusting in the Jesus who saves.

Power over. Spiritual death, power over physical death. Let's demonstrated in Christ's own power over his physical death because he's not just man. Is he? He is God. He is the one who verse 10 is talking about, not just when it says Jesus Christ, whom you crucified But when it says whom God raised from the dead Jesus said He had authority to lay his life down and authority to take it up again.

In John chapter 2 when the they were challenging him about the temple and his authority to clear. Its courts. He said, well, you want to sign tearless temple down and I'll raise it again in three days. And it says there that he was talking about his body, he was the one who did that And John 5:26 in John 10:18 It's Jesus who raised himself from the dead because Jesus is God.

It's also the Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead. Romans 1 verse 4, Romans 8, verse 11, 1st, Peter 3, verse 18, and you say, so who is it that raised Jesus from the dead, Was it the Father or the Son, or the Spirit? Since all of them are said to have done it.

The answer is. Yes, It is. The triune God who raised Jesus from the dead. You see, this is the unconquerable power of Psalm 2, The nation's rage, and the kings and people's plot, and Lord preserving us and another week, we'll get to hear them. Pray. Psalm 2, as they recognize that.

That's what's happening. Here, They resist the power of God and his anointed, but it's an irresistible power. God sits in heaven. And he laughs, he the son is told ask and I shall give you and you shall shatter into smithereens with your rod of iron. That's the power. That is displayed in the resurrection and in the healing of the man.

And even in this trial, In fact, Jesus has all power on earth. And in heaven, He turns it all upon them very specifically in verse 11. This is the stone, which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone, His quoting there from Psalm 118 verse 22.

You see, if you have office in your home, If you have office in the church, then you have an office to which the building of the kingdom of the Lord. Jesus Christ is assigned, but not everybody who has put in office is serving the kingdom. When it talks about those who are builders, he's identifying here, isn't he?

The especially the priests and the rulers and the elders. It was a priestly counsel but there are some apparently probably at least of the of the Pharisee party there, as well, verse 18, the way, Peter addresses them, when he says, rulers of the people and elders of Israel. More of the council.

Now is gathered, then just the priestly party. You also have in verse 5, their rulers and elders and scribes most of whom also would have been the Pharisee party. But the people that they were standing in front of where people who were supposed to govern, who were supposed to teach, who were supposed to lead, who were supposed to preach.

They were the clergy of the people of Israel and they were supposed to be the builders, but they had rejected the one great stone upon which everything else was to be built. They had rejected the Lord Jesus Christ And so the prophecy of Psalm 118:18 verse 22 was coming true with them.

This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone. Now something marvelous is going to happen in a couple of chapters. When they ordained deacons a great number of the priests are going to come to faith and it is perhaps on this occasion that the Holy Spirit first plants in their hearts and minds, the idea that they might be wrong, They've rejected Jesus Christ, They've succeeded, they thought at crucifying Him and exterminating any any hope that people had?

That Jesus is the Christ by killing him. They thought they had accomplished that But now Peter under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is prophesying to them. That one of the ways you would know the Christ is because the builders were going to reject him and they thought perhaps that they had done away with the idea that Jesus is going to be the Christ and now this fisherman who is untrained and uneducated and that becomes a point for them because he's quoting from the scripture in a way that they are unable to quote.

He's preaching with authority. You remember when Jesus preached with authority. People were surprised because nobody preached like that. Well now here's someone who's preaching the way Jesus did and they notice. Oh, they've been with Jesus. And one of the things he says, is you think that because you the leadership of rejected him that he's not the Christ, But the opposite was actually prophesied.

Wasn't that the builders would reject? The one who would become the chief cornerstone and that's exactly what has happened. See preaches, not only for the sake of Israel. Generally, but he preaches specifically for the souls that are in front of him. The church cannot be built anyway, but God's way it had to be built on the Lord.

Jesus Christ alone. This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, which is become the chief cornerstone nor, is there salvation in any other. For there is no other name under heaven given among men, by which we must be saved those who build another way, find themselves left out of the building all together.

And we don't have the time here to go further into Psalm 118 but verses 10 through 24 this is an extended theme in that Psalm Psalm 2 we have already mentioned Isaiah, 28, verses 14 through 18. Also talking about God laying a stone in Zion and doing so over against his people's own rebellion and the Lord Jesus had picked up these themes from Psalm 118 one 18.

Sorry it keeps sounding like I'm saying, 19 Psalm 118 and Psalm 2 and Isaiah 28 and Jesus himself had made this point in Matthew 21. Matthew 21 verses 42. You're 46. Jesus said to them. Have you never read in the scriptures, the stone, which the builders rejected has become the chief Cornerstone.

This was the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes. Therefore I say to you the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it, whoever falls on the stone will be broken but on whom ever it falls it will grind him to powder.

Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking of them. But when they sought to lay hands on him, They feared the multitudes because they took him for a profit. The church is built by way of the Salvation that comes in the name of Jesus Christ alone.

And so what Peter is doing here is they have asked him by what great power the man has been crippled. And his answer is not only that there is great power. In Jesus, His answer is that there is only power in Jesus or to put it a little more clearly.

There is power only in Jesus. And what Peter says about Jesus and earth, There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Jesus. Jesus said is true about himself even in heaven, all power in heaven, and on earth has been given to me.

The Lord Jesus says Note that the name in Matthew 28 Father Son and Holy Spirit is acquainted here with the name. Jesus Christ of Nazareth in Acts chapter 4. It's the same name. It's the name that has all power in heaven and all power and earth. Finally, Holy Spirit sets before us here, the power to open and shut mouths, This is the power by which Peter's mouth was opened.

We've already noted verse 8, Peter filled with the Holy Spirit said to them. We've already referred. Although it I don't think we gave the reference verse 13 when they saw the boldness of Peter, Peter, and John and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled and they realized they had been with Jesus versus 19 and 20 After they threaten them not to speak in the name of Jesus, Peter and John answer and say to them.

Whether it is right in the sight of God, to listen to you more than to God you judge for. We cannot but speak the things, which we have seen and heard One of the ways that Jesus shows his resurrection power is in opening the mouths of believers and giving them boldness.

We'll hear more about that in the following passage, when the Lord's day to come Lord willing But he has power to open the mouths of believers. Some of us have loved ones who need to hear about the Lord Jesus Christ. And perhaps by our own, having been quiet for too long and it feeling awkward to open your mouth after a while and I know what that is.

Like, So one of the reasons why if you are a visitor and most of you have been during my time here, a visitor, at some point, now, we start right away in personal conversation with the greatness of our Lord, Jesus and his salvation, and His goodness to us because it does make it awkward.

If Christ does everything to you and you wait to talk about him for a while, it gives the lie to his being everything to you. And yet we must speak of Him. And if you find in yourself that shrinking that it would be so awkward or I don't know how I'm going to say it know that it is His own power, that will open your mouth and look to him and dwell upon him and ask him for the help of his spirit.

Ask him to loose your tongue so that you can tell people at work. So you can be yourself at the gym for you. So, you could be yourself for the grocery store with your neighbors, so that you can be your new self in Jesus Christ. Who speaks of him who has a boldness?

That comes not from you. You've already discovered that you don't have strengths to be bold in you, but you are hearing from Acts 4, aren't you? That? He has strength for you to be bold in him and he will be faithful to give it two year. Dear believer. Power to open believer's mouths and then that you might have the fear taken away if you should have to stand.

Sometimes there are those who are who tremble at the thought of standing in front of family, or friends or acquaintance, or co-worker, or so forth. You may have opportunity to stand before. Judge, or sheriff or governor or city council.

He also has power to shock the mouths of the opponents. Notice how he shuts their mouths, They put them out. They go into what's called executive session. In this case, it's not to protect anybody's name but their own shady dealing when they had commanded them to go aside outside of the Council, they conferred among themselves saying, what shall we do to these men for indeed that a notable miracle has been done through them as evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem and we cannot deny it.

Our standing operating procedure in a situation like this would just to be done to deny that there's been a miracle But it's too obvious. In this case that there has been a miracle. This is one of the things we pray for when when people in high position are lying that God would show so much overwhelming concrete evidence that they're unable to do it anymore.

Isn't that something that we should desire from God? Well, God's already done it in this case because all Jerusalem knows this guy has been doing this thing for 40 years. They can't say mistaken identity. They can't say, wasn't really crippled before a sure, can't say it, you know, still crippled.

Now, yeah, They had tried to execute Lazarus to say that his resurrection didn't stick. I'm a little bit surprised. I didn't try to break the legs of the cripple here. God had shut their mouths. They ought to have said Since it is. So obvious that are notable miracle has performed.

And since it has been performed in the name of Jesus Christ, whom we thought had been crucified but now pretty obviously still exerting his power. Perhaps he has risen from the dead, he should come out of the council. You brought Peter and John back in and had the response to the first sermon, right?

What shall we do to be saved? But They are still spiritually dead and the Lord shuts their mouths. They try the threatening their response and versus 19 and 20 is your threat didn't work. They try a little bit more in verse 21. So when they had further threatened them, They let them go finding no way of punishing them.

God had shut their mouths. You know, God shuts the mouths of all opponents of Jesus Christ, there's no ruler. Who hangs on to his power forever, They really are gonna be shattered either by conversion in this life and praise God. When that comes that way. But if they do not kiss the Sun in time, then they will be utterly destroyed when his wrath is kindled, but a little says, some too, all their mouths will be shut.

It's the mouths of believers that are bold for Jesus. Now that will be grown in that boldness until we join that throng that we heard about and the in the class and Revelation 5, declaring the honor and glory and power of not just him who sits on the throne to whom all worship as do.

But to the land to whom all worship is Jew because although God alone may be worshiped, the Lamb is God The lamb who was slain for you is God and you will worship Him and praise him as God not as blasphemers but as the redeemed whose mouths have been opened when the mouths of all opponents have been shut

God gives power, not just over spiritual death, not just of physical death, not just all power in heaven and on earth that belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ. But very practically speaking. One of the things that you and I feel most powerless to do to open our mouths for Jesus Jesus's.

Power is for that too and he will give it to you. Dear Christian, Let us look to him for it. If you happen to be someone who's still resisting, the gospel of who Jesus is, and what Jesus has done, If you are resisting, the fact that apart from salvation that comes entirely by his power.

And by his goodness, Then you are still crippled and dead, but surrender to him, who has power to heal the spiritual purple and to raise the spiritually dead, it will be far better to have our resistance overcome by the power of Jesus. Now and be made those who know him and live in Him and praise him than to hold on to that resistance until the day we stand before the resurrected one and have him who defeated our resistance to his gospel and his church.

In this life, eternally crush are resistance. In the next, you will lose to Jesus lose. Now as one whom he saves call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved. And then, Let's pray.

Lord, we thank you for setting before us and our hearing the power of Jesus, and the power that is offered to us in Him. In his name, We'll pray that you would help us as our faith is weak and our courage is small, that you would stir up that faith in Jesus Christ and make us bold in him.

And for him, even for the souls of those who so strenuously, resist him. Help us by your spirit. We pray in Jesus name. Amen.