



### **Week 1 - He is Risen!**

1. God keeps His promises
2. Death Doesn't win!
3. It is finished! - Mission Impossible Accomplished
4. Salvation is purchased and paid for!
5. God is faithful, even when we aren't!

**Week 2 - He is Risen Indeed!** Thomas' conflict and evidences of the Resurrection of Jesus Thomas - "Delay and Denial are not Defeat and do not have to be our Destiny" Peter - 2nd chances; Failure does not have to be fatal, final, or our future.

**Week 3-Fire Fall!** While the disciples are in Jerusalem the promised Holy Spirit arrives. Peter preaches his first sermon and as a result 3,000 people trust in Jesus Christ. Peter and John are imprisoned for preaching and healing.

## **AD Series, the Bible Continues..."Stand" 4-26-15 (In the face of opposition)**

Acts 4:16-22 / 1 Corinthians 16:13 NLT / James 1:22 ESV

Have you ever had to stand up for something you believe in? When we stand, it's normally because there is some sort of opposition facing us. So we have to muster up the courage and take action to stand against that opposition.

**Stand:** -an attitude toward a particular issue; a position taken in an argument.

-a determined effort to resist or fight for something.

-an act of holding one's ground against or halting to resist an opposing force

Three truths to help you stand firm in your faith when life comes at you at full force:

**1. In Your Life, Jesus NEEDS To Be Foundational-** Peter and John stood strong in the face of opposition because Jesus was their foundation, the solid rock they stood upon. Acts 4:8-12

We all face trouble and opposition, but we can take a stand when we make Jesus our foundation. Jesus is a cornerstone and foundation that will never crack nor grow weary. A solid foundation for us to stand on 168 hours a week and 1,440 minutes a day! When the troubles of life come, Jesus is our firm foundation, WHEN we make him the cornerstone.

**QUESTION:** How have you kept Christ the foundation in your life?

**2. In Your Life, In The Midst Of Opposition, Obey God-** Peter and John faced opposition because they chose an act of OBEDIENCE. Acts 4:18-20 *"Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, '**Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him?** You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.'"*

**QUESTION:** In your personal life what are some examples of when you have obeyed God and faced opposition? How can we encourage others to do the same?

**3. When we stand for Jesus, He shines through us-** Acts 4:4, *"But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand."* Peter and John stood firm, and as a result many people heard the message of Christ and believed. Many people were snatched out of the kingdom of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of light because of their faith in the face of opposition. Being bold for Christ brings people into a relationship with HIM.

**We are Qualified!** Acts 4:13, *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. 14 But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition.* Do your job, Christian, and that will open the opportunity for Holy Spirit to do His.

**QUESTION:** How have you overcome feeling under qualified/not worthy?

God built His Church through people who stood firm on the solid foundation of Christ, who prayed, who were filled with the Spirit, and who stood together in faith. The expectation is that this would carry on, to be handed down as the service of His believers. Therefore, this is expected today. No matter the opposition.

“Following Jesus isn’t something you can do at night where no one notices. It’s a twenty-four-hour-a-day commitment that will interfere with your life. That’s not the small print—that’s a guarantee.” — Kyle Idleman

**QUESTION:** How has being a follower of Christ “interfered” with your life recently? What ways do we hinder the Holy Spirit from affecting our daily life?

In the face of opposition, adversity, when all hell is breaking loose, stand firm in your faith. God is faithful and wants us to be a light everywhere we go. Remember that when we stand firm in our faith, God’s light shines brightly through us.