



The model of congregational strength and zeal is seen in the Jerusalem church following the day of Pentecost. The Jerusalem congregation grew because they were not only (1) **devoted to God**, (2) **of one heart and soul**, but they were also (3) determined to **keep telling others about Jesus**.

Acts 4:20. Peter and John were charged “not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.” But Peter responded, “*We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.*”

I. Who charges us not to speak in Jesus’ name?

A. In **Acts 4:18**, the rulers, elders, scribes, and priests charged Peter and John “**not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.**” Yet, Peter did not back down.

B. Many aggressive and powerful opponents make that charge today. Consider who charges us not to speak of Jesus and do not surrender to them.

1. The p_____ c_____: (notes on the *philosophy of tolerance*.)

2. The a_____ e_____/militant: (notes on *intellectual intimidation*)

3. The p_____ -m_____: (notes on *subjectivism*)

4. The s_____: (notes on *convenient compartmentalizing*)

5. The societally “p_____:” (Immaturity develops poor ethics. The two no-nos)

6. The c_____: (It’s not an event, it’s an “as you go” habit.)

7. The fear of f_____: (we deceive ourselves.)

8. The fear of r_____: (We love the truth that we know can divide.)

C. Are we letting them win? Or do we respond like Peter?

II. Why were they so determined to testify?

1. It was their M_____ and I_____. (Acts 1:8)

2. F_____. What does it mean to “believe?” (John 6:68)

3. They knew it was G_____ N_____. (Romans 1:16-17) It’s great news because...

4. The greatest commandments: (Luke 10:27) L_____ for God & our neighbor
W_____ M_____ us to bring the two together.

5. Peter tried the other way & learned his lesson.

Jesus forgives & empowers us too. (John 18:15-18, 25-27, 21:15-19)

III. What can each of us do to point others to God?

1. I_____ them to our Sunday assembly.
2. Offer to P_____ with them.
3. T_____. Share your own story.
4. Seek a R_____ -partner. Simply ask “would you read the Bible with me?”
5. Ask for prayer R_____ from your waiter/waitress.
(ps. After a good conversation & prudent gratuity, leave a church card.)
6. *Inquire of another’s spiritual beliefs. Listen & kindly built interest.*
7. G_____ guests in this assembly. (It’s not only the “greeter’s job;” it’s yours!)
8. Plan for H_____ -Bible-studies & invite everyone you know.

Conclusion: No threat would not stop the Jerusalem brethren from proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus. The Jerusalem congregation grew. May we learn from them and **keep pointing people to the Savior.**