

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**.