

*The Extraordinary Church*  
**The Persecuted Church**

**I. Introduction**

- A. I Peter 4:12 (NAS)
- B. II Thessalonians 1:4 (NAS)
- C. II Timothy 3:12 (NAS)
- D. John 16:33b (NAS)

**II. The Persecuted Church**

- A. Acts 4:1-7 (NAS) *<sup>1</sup>As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them, <sup>2</sup>being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup>And they laid hands on them and put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening. <sup>4</sup>But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. <sup>5</sup>On the next day, their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem; <sup>6</sup>and Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of high-priestly descent. <sup>7</sup>When they had placed them in the center, they began to inquire, "By what power, or in what name, have you done this?"*

- 1. The Kingdom of God advances not only by the Words of Jesus - - and not only by the works of Jesus - - but also through the wounds of Jesus!

- B. John 15:18-20 (NAS)

- 1. Persecution is a normal Christian experience, so let's be ready for it!
  - 2. "What would you consider to be a 'normal Christian experience'?"
  - 3. Persecution is a "normal Christian experience."
  - 4. Persecution often comes from people closest to us.

- C. Acts 4:8-13 (NAS) *<sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people, <sup>9</sup>if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health. <sup>11</sup>He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief corner stone. <sup>12</sup>And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." <sup>13</sup>Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.*

- 1. Persecution unleashes the Holy Spirit, so let us boldly proclaim the Name of Jesus!

- D. Acts 4:31 (NAS) *And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.*

- E. Acts 4:8 (NAS) *Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people."*

- 1. "What if I'm not experiencing any persecution for being a follower of Jesus?"

2. What are you attempting which could not be accomplished without the Holy Spirit?

- F. Acts 4:29-30 (NAS) <sup>29</sup>*“And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, <sup>30</sup>while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.”*
- G. Acts 4:31 (NAS) *And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.*
- H. Acts 4:19-20 (NAS) <sup>19</sup>*But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; <sup>20</sup>for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”*
- I. Acts 4:13 (NAS) *Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.*

### **III. Conclusion**