

The Secret of Gospel Growth

Acts 4:1-31



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Introduction

How does the gospel grow? We know in Acts that it is intended to. But how does it happen? Acts 4 tells us the secrets to gospel growth as persecution hits the church for the first time, Peter preaches boldly, and the Christians pray until the room shakes.

The gospel grows:

1. Despite persecution (vv. 1-4)
2. When Christ is preached (vv. 5-12)
3. Through ordinary people (vv. 13-22)
4. When prayer is Godward (vv. 23-31)

Notes

Questions to Ponder

1. Why do you think persecution has not stopped church growth historically? What does persecution do to galvanize our faith?
2. How can we maintain a disciplined Christian life when we are surrounded by comfort and entertainment?
3. What did Peter teach that made his message to the Sanhedrin so gospel-centred? (vv. 8-12)
4. Read Acts 4:12. What would you say to someone who claims, "There are many ways to God"?
5. What amazed the Sanhedrin about Peter and John? (v.13) What does that say to us about the kind of people God uses?
6. Why was God so pleased with the prayer these believers offered? (vv. 24-30) What pointers does their prayer give that could make our prayers more effective?