

## **“Gospel Stoppers?”**

*Are You overcoming the World’s attempt to derail Your Witness?*

Acts 4:1-22

*The world will decry Our:*

### **I. Influence** - “being grieved” (vs. 1-4)

*They will question Our:*

#### **A. Place** – “taught the people”

- *The world questions whether or not Christians have a place in this world. Politicians dismiss Christians by separation of church and state.*
- *Some say Faith can not be intellectual and thus has no place in school.*

#### **B. Power** – “resurrection of the dead”

- *Some today say that Jesus is not the Son of God*
- *Some today do not believe that God answers prayer*
- *Some today would say that being “in Christ” is not a position of power*
- *Some are totally ignorant of the life giving power of the blood of Jesus Christ.*

#### **C. Product** – “many of them...believed”

- *We are all the product of God’s grace being received by faith*
- *Our lives are testimony of what God can do. Ephesians 1:10 – We are His workmanship = Trophies of His Grace*
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## **II. Identity** – “by what name” (vs. 5-16)

*They will test Our :*

### **A. Foundation** – “head of the corner”

Our foundation for life should be our faith in Jesus Christ. Too bad too many Christians are not building on that firm foundation.

I Corinthians 3:11-12 – build on the foundation  
Matthew 7:24-27 – Wise man build his house upon the rock but the foolish man built his house upon the sand.

SO, HOW do we build on a firm foundation?  
Building on the foundation by obeying God’s Word.

### **B. Freedom** – “we must be saved”

***True freedom is having the ability to do what you should do. Without power, freedom languishes. God has given us the greatest freedom = The ability to please God.***

### **Romans 8:1-2**

*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

### **Romans 8:8-9**

<sup>8</sup>So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.

**C. Fellowship** – “had been with Jesus”

*Do we love God like we should? Are we loyal to Him?  
These are the questions that the World will test us with.*

**FELLOWSHIP VERSES:**

**I Corinthians 1:8**

God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amos 3:3**

<sup>3</sup>Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

**II Corinthians 6:14**

<sup>14</sup>Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

**Philippians 3:9-10**

And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: <sup>10</sup>That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

**I John 1:6-7**

<sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

**III. Integrity** – “whether it be right” (vs. 17-22)

*They will seek to displace Our :*

**A. Witness** – “we have seen and heard”

- Will we truly tell of what we have seen and heard?
  - We have seen and heard of our failures
  - We have seen and heard of God’s Mercy and Grace
  - We have seen of our powerless estate
  - We have seen of His Mighty Power to Save and Set Free

**B. Worry** – “because of the people”

- Do we worry more about physical things than spiritual things?
- Do we overly concern ourselves with food and clothing? Matthew 6:33
- Do we worry instead of PRAY?
- Are we more concerned with what others think than what God thinks?

**C. Worship** – “men glorified God”

- *Are we worshipping God?*
- *Elements of true worship:*
  - *In Spirit – not the action but the reaction or response of our soul*
  - *In Truth – committed to finding and abiding in the truth*

*The World has its witness, worry, and worship. Look at Romans 1:18, result in:*

- *Witness Romans 1:21-23*
- *Worry Romans 1:24*
- *Worship Romans 1:25*

**Decry** = to speak disparagingly of; denounce as faulty or worthless; express censure of