

With Sister Paulette Morrison
on October 10, 2021

Discovering the Power of the Word

A READING AND LISTENING SESSION

Acts 4



On Sunday evening, October 10, 2021, a transformative event unfolded: 'Reading & Listening Session Discover the Power of the Word by Reading the Word of God.' This session delved into the profound impact of scripture, specifically drawing from the book of Acts, Chapter 4, to explore themes of persecution, prayer, undeniable miracles, and healing.

A Story from Acts 4

The evening's narrative centered around selected verses from Acts 4 (NET), painting a vivid picture of the early church's experiences:

The Apostles Peter and John, emboldened by the Holy Spirit, began to spread the Gospel, leading to their arrest and imprisonment (Acts 4:1-3). Brought before the Sanhedrin, they were questioned about the source of their power and authority (Acts 4:7). Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, boldly proclaimed that the healing of the lame man was done in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:8-10). Observing the healed man standing with them, the Sanhedrin couldn't deny the miracle (Acts 4:14). They commanded Peter and John not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:18). However, Peter and John declared they could not stop speaking about what they had seen and heard (Acts 4:19-20). After further threats, the Sanhedrin released them, fearing the people's reaction (Acts 4:21). Returning to their community, Peter and John reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them (Acts 4:23). Upon hearing this, the believers united in prayer, acknowledging God's sovereignty and asking for boldness to continue speaking His word (Acts 4:24, 31). The result was a powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit, empowering them to speak the word of God with boldness (Acts 4:31). The believers were united in heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had (Acts 4:32). There were no needy persons among them (Acts 4:34).

Insights from Readers and Listeners

Evangelist Mullings - Persecution (Acts 4:3)

Evangelist Mullings highlighted the reality of persecution faced by the early church and its relevance to believers today. She emphasized that **persecution is not a sign of failure**, but often an indication that we are effectively living out our faith.

Sister Donna - The Prayer of the Believers (Acts 4:23-24, 31)

Sister Morrison explored the powerful prayer of the believers after Peter and John's release. She focused on their acknowledgment of God's sovereignty and their plea for boldness. **Prayer, she emphasized, is a vital weapon** in the face of adversity, unlocking God's power to transform situations and empower believers.

Minister Watson - Undeniable Miracle (Acts 4:14)

Minister Watson pointed out the undeniable nature of the miracle performed on the lame man. The Sanhedrin, despite their opposition, could not refute the evidence of healing. This underscored the **power of God's miracles to silence doubters** and validate the truth of the Gospel.

Deaconess Morrison-Ellis - The Man was Healed (Acts 4:10)

Deaconess Ellis drew attention to Peter's declaration that the man was healed in the name of Jesus Christ. This emphasized the **centrality of Jesus' name** and the authority it holds in healing and deliverance. The name of Jesus is a source of power and hope.

Event Summary

The 'Reading & Listening Session served as a powerful reminder of the enduring relevance of scripture. By examining the events in Acts 4, participants gained a deeper understanding of the challenges and triumphs faced by the early church, as well as the power of prayer, the reality of miracles, and the authority of Jesus' name. The session demonstrated how reading and reflecting on the Word of God can equip and empower believers to live out their faith with boldness and conviction. The event showed how the power of the early believers is just as available to us today through reading and believing in the Word of God.