Holy Spirit gives us the confidence to

Believe in Jesus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:10-12*

Holy Spirit enables us to

Know Jesus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. Acts 4: 13*

Holy Spirit helps us

Explain Jesus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 *Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 1 Peter 3:16*

Holy Spirit causes us to

Experience Jesus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 *And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. Acts 4: 29-31*

“A Powerful Witness…Talks About Jesus, Boldly”

 Text: Acts 3,4 Pastor Jay Cave BPCC 02/15/2015

 Sermon Notes:

For Your Consideration:

 Today’s lesson concerns talking about Jesus, boldly with those around us. This is one of the primary ways the Lord grows his church. We are witnesses who God uses to spread his Word through our speech. All of us could use a bit more boldness in this area. Amen?

 Your homework assignment is to read Acts 3,4. The story begins as Peter and John are going to Solomon’s Temple at the hour of prayer (the ninth hour, about 3p). They encounter a man who has been lame from birth. He asks the apostles for money, but Peter heals him miraculously. The man leaps up and begins walking into the temple as the onlookers are amazed.

 Just as he does at Pentecost, Peter uses the opportunity to address the crowd and…talk about Jesus. Special attention should be given to this wonderful sermon (Acts 3: 1-26). It is a beautiful presentation of the the gospel, firm and yet direct and the result is that 5000 people came to Christ.

 Eventually this event sparks the interest of the Jewish rulers in the city, including Annas and Caiaphas, who promptly tell Peter to quit speaking about Jesus. Remember these are the very same rulers who were instrumental in Jesus crucifixion (John 18:12-14, 24). They are not powerless men. Yet Peter speaks with great boldness, even accusing them of crucifying Jesus. The word for boldness here is ***parresia***, or “a spirit inspired confidence to speak freely in spite of any danger or threat.” It is used three times in Acts 4, verses 13, 29, and 31.

 In reading and rereading the text this week, I kept asking myself the question, “Is this the same Peter who simply refused to talk about Jesus, denying that he even knew Jesus? (Luke 22:54-62) Yes it is! What a difference! Here he stood before a dangerous crowd, seemingly fearless. How is this possible?

**Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit** (verse 8). One of the results of a Spirit filled life is the ability to speak about Jesus freely, with inspired confidence in spite of any danger or threat. Jesus predicted this would occur: *Behold, I am sending you out, as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak of what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you (Matthew 10:16-19).* A Spirit filled tongue is controlled by the Holy Spirit!

The Lord is still growing his Kingdom by having people talk about him. However, we still need boldness, or inspired confidence. There are many villains, skeptics, haters of our message, and we must be filled with God’s Holy Spirit to accomplish the task. It seems to me that there are four distinct ways the Holy Spirit works in us to cause boldness in talking about Jesus. (over)