

# HOW REVIVAL ACTS

Acts 4:23-37



**FIRED UP**



Acts 4:23 And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou *art* God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,



30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any *of them* that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.



34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,  
35 And laid *them* down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, *and* of the country of Cyprus,  
37 Having land, sold *it*, and brought the money, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.



## I. THE ORGANIZATION

A. The Person, 1:1-2

B. The Proofs, 1:3

C. The Pastor, 1:4a

D. The Preparation, 1:4b

E. The Power, 1:5

F. The Predicament, 1:6-7

G. The Performance, 1:8

## II. THE OPERATION

A. Watching the Ascension of the Savior, 1:9-11

B. Waiting for Empowering of the Spirit, 1:12-26

## III. THE OPERATIVES: THE FOUNDING EMPHASIS – SIMON, 2:1-5:42

A. Testimony, 2:1-47

B. Triumph, 3:1-4:37



# 1. The Thrilling Opportunity Seized, 3:1-4:22

a. The Man, 3:1-8

b. The Multitude, 3:9-11

c. The Message, 3:12-26

d. The Master, 4:1-22

(1) The Glory of His Name, 4:1-12

(2) The Greatness of His Fame, 4:13-22

(a) The Dilemma of the Rulers, 4:13-16

i. What They Saw, 4:13-14

- The Man Who Had Been with Jesus, 4:13
- The Man Who Had Been Brought to Jesus,

ii. What They Said, 4:15-16

(b) The Decision of the Rulers, 4:17-22

i. It Was Despotic, 4:17-18

- Their Opposition to the Salvation of God,
- Their Opposition to the Son of God,

ii. It Was Defied, 4:19-22

• Promptly, 4:19-20

• Properly, 4:21-22



## 2. The Threatening Opposition Scorned, 4:23-27

### a. The Fellowship, 4:23-30

#### (1) Fellowship in Suffering, 4:23

Acts 4:23 And being let go, **they went to their own company,** and **reported all** that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

#### (2) Fellowship in Supplication, 4:24-30

##### (a) Praise, 4:24-28

##### i. For God's Omnipotence, 4:24

Acts 4:24 And when they heard that, **they lifted up their voice to God with one accord,** and said, Lord, thou *art* God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

(Exod. 20:11, Neh. 9:6; Ps. 146:6; Isa. 42:5. Acts 14:15; 17:24. 2 Kings 19:15-19; Isa. 37:15-20)



When challenges arose for the first church, the response was a call to action.....in prayer!

- The first church members acknowledged the Lordship of Christ – “...Lord...”
- The first church members were “creationists” – “...hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:”

ii. For God’s Omniscience, 4:25-28

- In Prophetic Foreknowledge, 4:25-26

Acts 4:25 Who **by the mouth of thy servant David** hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?  
26 The kings of the earth stood up, and **the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.**



- In Prophetic Fulfillment, 4:27-28

Acts 4:27 For of a truth against **thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed**, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, **were gathered together**,  
28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

(b) Prayer, 4:29-30

i. The Danger, 4:29a

Acts 4:29a “And now, Lord, behold their threatenings...”

ii. The Desire, 4:29b-30

- For Courage, 4:29b

Acts 4:29b “...and **grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,**”



"Prayer is not an escape from responsibility; it is our *response* to God's *ability*. True prayer energizes us for service and battle."

Wiersbe, Warren W. *The Bible Exposition Commentary*. 2 vols. Wheaton: Scripture Press, Victor Books, 1989. 1:416.

- For Confirmation, 4:30

Acts 4:30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

b. The Filling, 4:31

(1) The Spectacular Sign, 4:31a

Acts 4:31 "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken **where they were assembled together...**"



## (2) The Spiritual Sign, 4:31b

Acts 4:31b "...and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness."

### c. The Family, 4:32-37

#### (1) Its Mystical Oneness, 4:32

Acts 4:32 **And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul:** neither said any *of them* that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.



## (2) Its Ministerial Oneness, 4:33

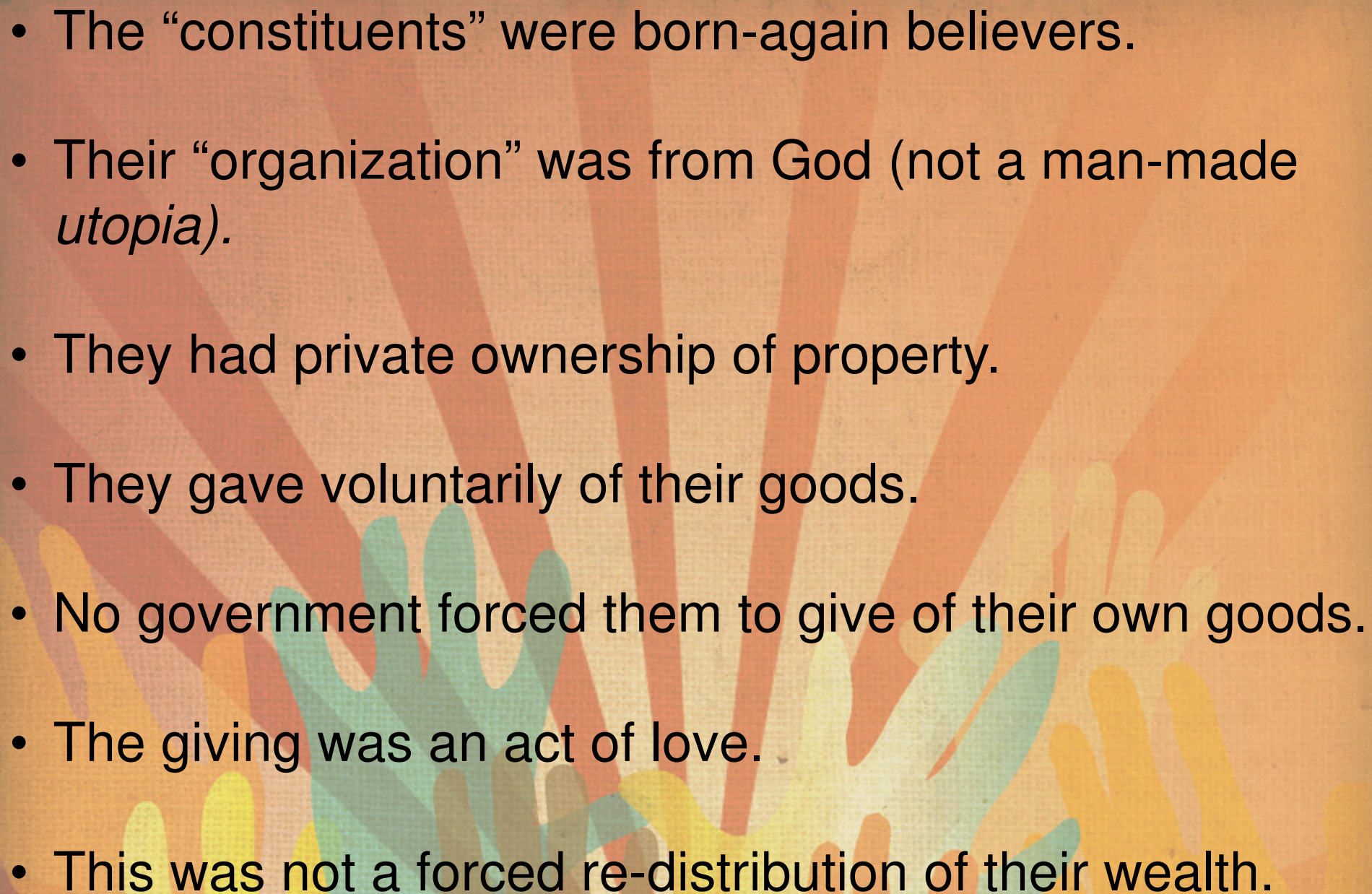
Acts 4:33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

## (3) Its Material Oneness, 4:34-37

### (a) A Spontaneous Expression of That Oneness, 4:34-35

Acts 4:34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,  
35 And laid *them* down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.



- 
- The background of the slide features a warm, orange-toned gradient. Overlaid on this are several stylized, overlapping hands in various colors including yellow, green, and brown. From the center of the hands, several bright, radiating lines or rays extend outwards, creating a sunburst effect. The overall aesthetic is one of community, warmth, and shared purpose.
- The “constituents” were born-again believers.
  - Their “organization” was from God (not a man-made *utopia*).
  - They had private ownership of property.
  - They gave voluntarily of their goods.
  - No government forced them to give of their own goods.
  - The giving was an act of love.
  - This was not a forced re-distribution of their wealth.



(b) A Specific Example of That  
Oneness, 4:36-37

Acts 4:36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, *and* of the country of Cyprus,

37 Having land, sold *it*, and brought the money, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.



## Conclusion

Acts 4:33 And **with great power** gave the apostles **witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus:** and **great grace was upon them all.**

The key description of the first church was that it ministered with "...great power...and great grace..."

Acts 4:33 And **with great power...and great grace was upon them all.**



2 Tim. 3:1 This know also, that **in the last days** perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.**