



TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

“They [the Sanhedrin] had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: “By what power or what name did you do this?” Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Ruler and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.’ Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:7-12

Standing tall

Peter and John, apostles of Jesus, had just done something miraculous: they healed a 40-year-old crippled man in front of numerous witnesses. But not everyone was happy with the miracle. Instead of giving thanks to God for this act of mercy, the local religious leaders threw Peter and John into jail. The next day, they were questioned by the Sanhedrin—the highest authority of Jewish law and culture.

The members of the Sanhedrin felt threatened by the apostles. They wanted to stop them from spreading this message of Jesus around the people. So they ordered Peter and John to stop speaking in the name of Jesus, but the apostles would not bow to such a command.

The apostles of the early church didn’t have it easy. They were put in prison multiple times, flogged, stoned, mocked, kicked out of different regions, and killed. What would cause them to be willing to suffer all of this?

Jesus.

Peter, John, and the rest of the early church believed that Jesus is the only way to heaven. His death and resurrection meant that they would live forever someday. His name is the only name that saves. You can see why they wanted to spread this good news to everyone.

What do you say when someone asks about your faith? What do you do when someone confronts you about your Christian convictions? What do you do when someone attacks you? It’s easy to shrink back and avoid giving a real answer. It’s intimidating to stand up for what you believe, especially with close friends.

During times of questioning, look to the example of Peter and John: **Stand tall**. Don’t be ashamed of the name of Jesus. He gave you everything: the forgiveness of all your sins, new life, and a home in heaven. Like Peter and John, “we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard” in Jesus’ name (Acts 4:20).

Prayer: Dear Jesus, help me stand tall and be a bold witness for you when I’m asked about my faith. Amen.