

SENIOR BIBLE FELLOWSHIP ASSIGNMENT: JUNE 23, 2026

BACKGROUND:

Peter and John were arrested by the Jewish leaders because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. On the next day the rulers, elders, scribes, Annas (the high priest), John, Alexander, and Caiaphas gathered and they set Peter and John in their midst. They asked Peter and John, by what name were they teaching. Peter filled with the Holy Spirit said the healing a crippled man was done in the name of Jesus Christ. The leaders were astonished by their boldness and thought it was due to their time with Jesus. Before letting them go, the Jewish council charged them not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. Peter and John refused. The Jewish leaders had no choice but to release them as all the people were praising God for the healing of the lame man.

Acts 4:23 - 37

²³ When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, ²⁵ who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

" 'Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain?

²⁶ The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed'

²⁷ for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. ²⁹ And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." ³¹ 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.

³² Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³ And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵ and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. ³⁶ Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, ³⁷ sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

QUESTIONS:

1. When Peter and John were released by the Jewish council where did they go?

- a. Peter's home
- b. To their friends.
- c. To the temple
- d. To the local pub
- e. To home of Caiaphas

2. When those who were now believers heard from Peter and John, raised their voices to God. In their prayer they referenced Psalm 2:1 – 2.

2a. When Peter and John were arrested, I would imagine, many of the new believers began to question the consequences of their new faith. However, after Peter and John were released, do you think their mindset changed? How?

2b. As they prayed to God, what are some things they are asking of God?

2c. Did God answer their prayer?

3. In their prayer, they note that Psalm 2 is from the Holy Spirit as mouthed by David. Have you ever experienced a time when you spoke by the Holy Spirit or witnessed a person who was speaking through the Holy Spirit?

4. The believers from the Pentecost were the beginnings of what we call the New Testament church. The Holy Spirit was essential in guiding and empowering them to grow God's kingdom.

4a. Share some things you see the Holy Spirit doing to grow the people and church.

4b. Based on the items shared in question 4a, is our church, East Renton CC growing in these ways? Please give specific examples.