

Confrontation!

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Acts 5:12-42.
- B. In the last days, there will come perilous times and the church was born out of these. (II Timothy)
- C. The last days consist of the time after Jesus' death and resurrection.
- D. We face perilous times today.
- E. God always teaches by invisible physical events that illustrates visible ones.
- F. There are four great factors that will always be operating when the church is in peril.

II. A clear demonstration of the power of God.

- A. Many healings, signs and wonders are associated with this.
- B. Many "signs" today like this are not the same as those of the New Testament at all—they are usually of the character of a psychological release that is only momentary.
- C. The signs of an apostle are particular intended to manifest the power of God and not given to the church at large. (II Corinthians 12)

III. Where the Spirit of God is there is liberty.

- A. The Word of God is not bound.
- B. Whenever the Word is spoken in power, it cannot be stopped.

IV. The truth is uttered regardless of the opposition.

- A. Man is fallen and in the grip of forces opposed to the will of God.
- B. The gospel enrages and invites men.
- C. The opposition is demonic forces behind men. (Ephesians 6)
- D. God can restrain evil forces—we have spiritual weapons to engage them.

V. The church counted itself worthy to suffer for Christ's name.

- A. When you were called to be a Christian, you were called to suffer.
- B. Suffering is integral to the Christian experience.

Application questions:

1. Why are the “signs” today not necessarily the same as those in the New Testament?

2. How is truth generally manifest by the church in the midst of opposition?

3. What is the role of suffering in the Christian life? How can this help someone in his or her own personal struggles?
