

**Acts 1-10: God's Blueprint for Ministry in the Church
There Is Purpose In Opposition
Acts 4:5-31 (page 758)**

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God has a purpose for opposition to our message
(Acts 4:5-22)

Opposition will:

- require my dependence on God's empowering (5-7)
- cause me to keep Jesus at the center of my message (8-12)
- bring the character of Christ out in me (v 13)
- allow transformed lives to refute the skeptics (14-16)
- cause me to determine where my devotion lies (17-21)

Opposition produces unity in the church (Acts 4:23-31)

Opposition causes me to:

- pray with others for our mission (vs 22-30)
 - I acknowledge God's control over all things (vs 22-28)
 - I pray for God's power, not my protection (vs 29-30)
- be supernaturally prepared together (v 31a)
- be committed to proclaim the gospel with boldness (31b)

Making it stick...

Would anybody be able to recognize that I "*have been with Jesus*"? What are some steps I could take this week so that others might have that impression of me?

What did I learn from Peter and John's response to the leader's command? What would my response to that command have been? Why?

Are my prayers focused on myself and my wants or are they focused on God and His desires? Why? What can I learn from the prayers of the church in verse 23-31?