



**What Is Your Foundation?**  
**Acts 4:1-22**

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# Unbelief:

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- ❖ What is the nature of unbelief?
- ❖ What are the implications for Christians?



A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open book. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the book and the person's arms. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Acts 2:43

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Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

# A Spirit-filled church

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- ❖ Devoted to the apostles' teaching
- ❖ Devoted to fellowship
- ❖ Devoted to "the breaking of bread"
- ❖ Devoted to prayer



## Peter's sermon (Acts 3):

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- ❖ Truth is found in Scripture.
- ❖ Truth is found in Jesus.

# Opponents:

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- ❖ Captain of the temple guard (4:1)
- ❖ Sadducees (4:1)
- ❖ Rulers (4:5)
- ❖ Elders (4:5)
- ❖ Teachers of the law (4:5)



## Acts 4:2

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They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.

## Acts 4:4

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**But many who heard the message believed;  
so the number of men who believed  
grew to about five thousand.**





## Acts 4:9

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**“If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed,**

## Acts 4:10

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**“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.**



## Acts 4:11-12

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Jesus is

“the stone you builders rejected,  
which has become the cornerstone.’

Salvation is found in no one else,  
for there is no other name under heaven  
given to mankind by which  
we must be saved.”

## Acts 4:13-14

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When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.



## Acts 4:15-16

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So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together.

“What are we going to do with these men?” they asked. “Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it.”

## Acts 4:17

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**“But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”**



## Acts 4:18-20

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Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

## Acts 4:21-22

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After further threats they let them go.

They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.



## John 15:18-19

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[Jesus]: ““If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.”



**Carl Sagan:**

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**“It is far better to grasp the Universe  
as it really is than to persist in delusion,  
however satisfying and reassuring.”**



A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped together, resting on an open book. The background is blurred, showing more of the book and the person's arms. The lighting is soft and natural.

**Ernest Hemingway:**

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**“All thinking men are atheists.”**



**Denis Diderot:**

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**“Man will never be free until the last king is  
strangled with the entrails of the last priest”**





**Ted Turner:**

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**“Christianity is a religion for losers.”**

## Blaise Pascal:

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**“Belief is a wise wager. Granted that faith cannot be proved, what harm will come to you if you gamble on its truth and it proves false? If you gain, you gain all; if you lose, you lose nothing. Wager, then, without hesitation, that He exists.”**



## Acts 4:2

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## Acts 4:13

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When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.



# 1 Corinthians 1:22-23

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Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles ...

## Genesis 4:4-5

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The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.



## Hebrews 11:4

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By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

## 1 John 3:12-13

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Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother.

And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you.



## Acts 4:12

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[Peter]: “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”



# John Lennon and Paul McCartney:

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One, two, three, four, five, six, seven,  
All good children go to Heaven



## 2 Peter 1:5-7

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For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

## 2 Peter 1:8-9

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For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our LORD Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.





## 2 Timothy 3:12

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**In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted ...**

## Matthew 5:10

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[Jesus]:

“Blessed are those who are persecuted  
because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”





## Luke 23:34

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Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."



## Acts 4:20

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[Peter and John]: “As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”



# Unbelief:

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- ❖ What is the nature of unbelief?
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# Unbelief:

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- ❖ What is the nature of unbelief?
  - ❖ It is usually not an intellectual debate.
  - ❖ It is more often defensive of our substitute foundations.



# Unbelief:

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- ❖ What are the implications for Christians?
  - ❖ Unbelief does not only trouble non-Christians.
  - ❖ Belief brings persecution.





# Are you being called?

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- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper