

**ASSIGNMENT FOR CLASS #3:
THE MINISTRY OF PETER AND THE FIRST TWO IMPRISONMENTS**

Session #1: Peter, John and the Lame Beggar

- Read Chapter 3
- Read Deut 18:15-19

Place yourself in this scene. This is a very traditional meditation practice when praying with Holy Scriptures. Who are you in the scene? Peter? John? The blind beggar? A bystander? What are your feelings as you read it? Peter stresses repentance several times in his speech? What does that make you think about personally? What do you think he wants you and the world to “repent” from?

Session #2: Peter & John Testify Before the Elders

- Read Acts 4:1-22

Verse 4:4 says that the number of Christians has grown to about 5,000. That is about a 3,000 person increase from Pentecost shortly before. What accounts for the growth? What needs to happen in our world to see such growth? Notice how much Peter stresses JESUS (See 3:16; 4:10). How comfortable are you preaching and witnessing to *Jesus Christ*, or do we stress a Gospel that is much more non-specific? Peter says, “*For we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard* (4:20).” What have you seen and heard about Jesus and the Gospel?

Session #3: The Early Believers

- Read Acts 4:23-31
- Read Psalm 2:1-2

What do you think about this prayer? Are you able to join in it and understand it? *What are they really asking for?* What would you ask for?

Session #4: The Believers & Their Possessions

- Read Acts 4:32-37
- Re-read Acts 2:44-45

Here we see some of the earliest examples of church offerings. How do we feel about our possessions? What holds us back from giving more?

TURN (See 3:19, 26) = In Greek, *apostrephō*. I thought it was significant that in Peter’s speech he stressed this word meaning “to turn around, return, or turn back.” Peter very much wants to stress that following this new path means you have to turn away from your old one!

ANAPSUCHIS (“Times of refreshment”)(3:19) = literally means “a recovery of breath.” Isn’t it interesting that Peter says that when we repent we will receive a “recovery of breath”? One of the primary symbols and definitions of the Holy Spirit is “breath”!