

Acts 4:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

Analysis

Peter, 'filled with the Holy Ghost,' demonstrates fulfillment of Christ's promise (Luke 12:11-12) that the Spirit would provide words when facing tribunals. This filling differs from Pentecost's - not conversion but empowerment for specific witness. The address 'Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel' shows respect for office while preparing to deliver devastating accusation. Spirit-filling produces boldness, not recklessness; wisdom, not foolishness.

Historical Context

This same Peter who denied Christ before a servant girl (Luke 22:57) now boldly confronts the Sanhedrin, demonstrating Pentecost's transforming power. The council members 'perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men' (v. 13), yet couldn't resist Spirit-given wisdom, fulfilling Luke 21:15.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Spirit-filling for witness differ from Spirit-baptism at conversion?

2. What does Peter's transformation from denier to defender teach about the Spirit's sanctifying work?

Interlinear Text

τότε Πέτρος πλησθεὶς πνεύματος ἄγιον εἶπεν πρὸς

Then **Peter** **filled** **Ghost** **with the Holy** **said** **unto**
G5119 G4074 G4130 G4151 G40 G2036 G4314

αὐτούς Ἀρχοντες τοῦ λαοῦ καὶ πρεσβύτεροι τοῦ

them **Ye rulers** **G3588** **of the people** **and** **elders** **G3588**
G846 G758 G2992 G2532 G4245

Ἰσραὴλ,

of Israel

G2474

Additional Cross-References

Acts 2:4 (Holy): And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 4:31 (Holy): And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Acts 7:55 (Holy): But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

Luke 23:13 (Parallel theme): And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people,