



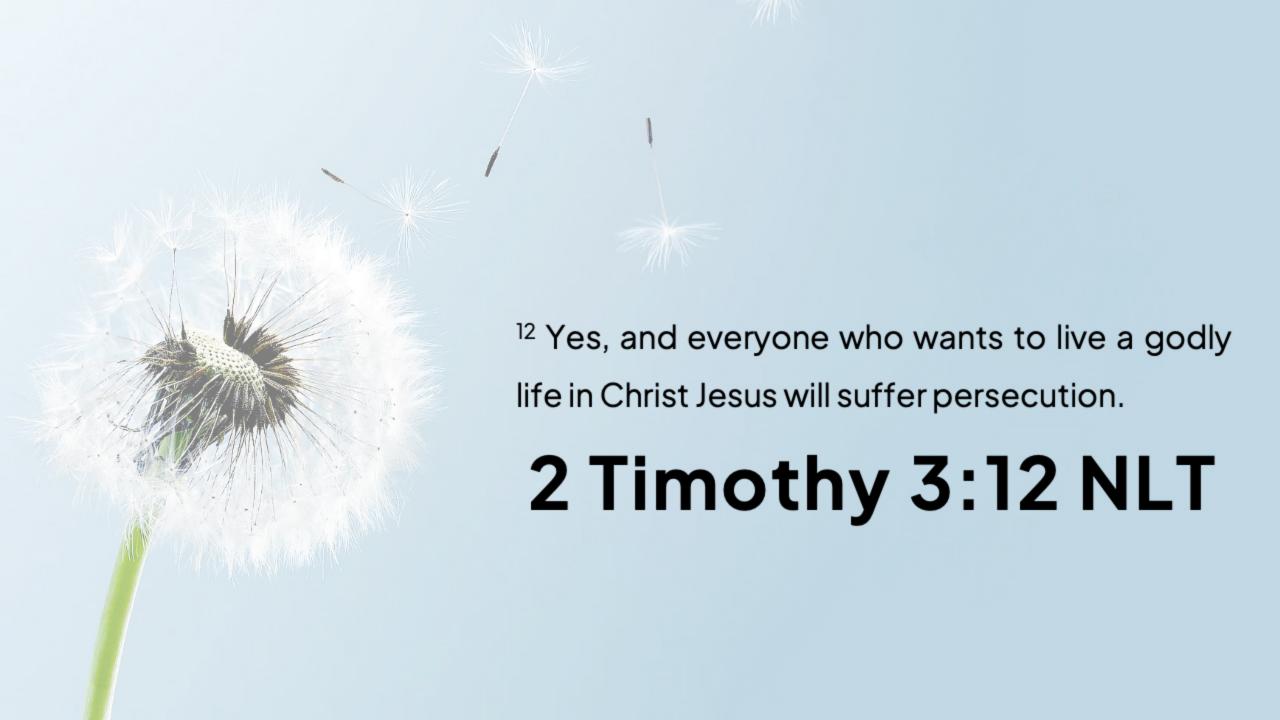
¹ While Peter and John were speaking to the people, they were confronted by the priests, the captain of the Temple guard, and some of the Sadducees. ² These leaders were very disturbed that Peter and John were teaching the people that through Jesus there is a resurrection of the dead. ³ They arrested them and, since it was already evening, put them in jail until morning.

Acts 4:1-3 NLT



18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also."

John 15:18-20a NIV





⁵ The next day the council of all the rulers and elders and teachers of religious law met in Jerusalem. 6 Annas the high priest was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and other relatives of the high priest. ⁷ They brought in the two disciples and demanded, "By what power, or in whose name, have you done this?"

Acts 4:5-7 NLT



We see from Acts 4:1-6, eleven different groups or individuals opposing Peter, John and their message.



When persecution came, they responded with the **power** of the **Holy Spirit**.





8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8 NLT

"And when you are brought to trial in the synagogues and before rulers and authorities, don't worry about how to defend yourself or what to say, 12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what needs to be said." Luke 12:11-12 NLT



When persecution came, they responded with <u>clear</u>

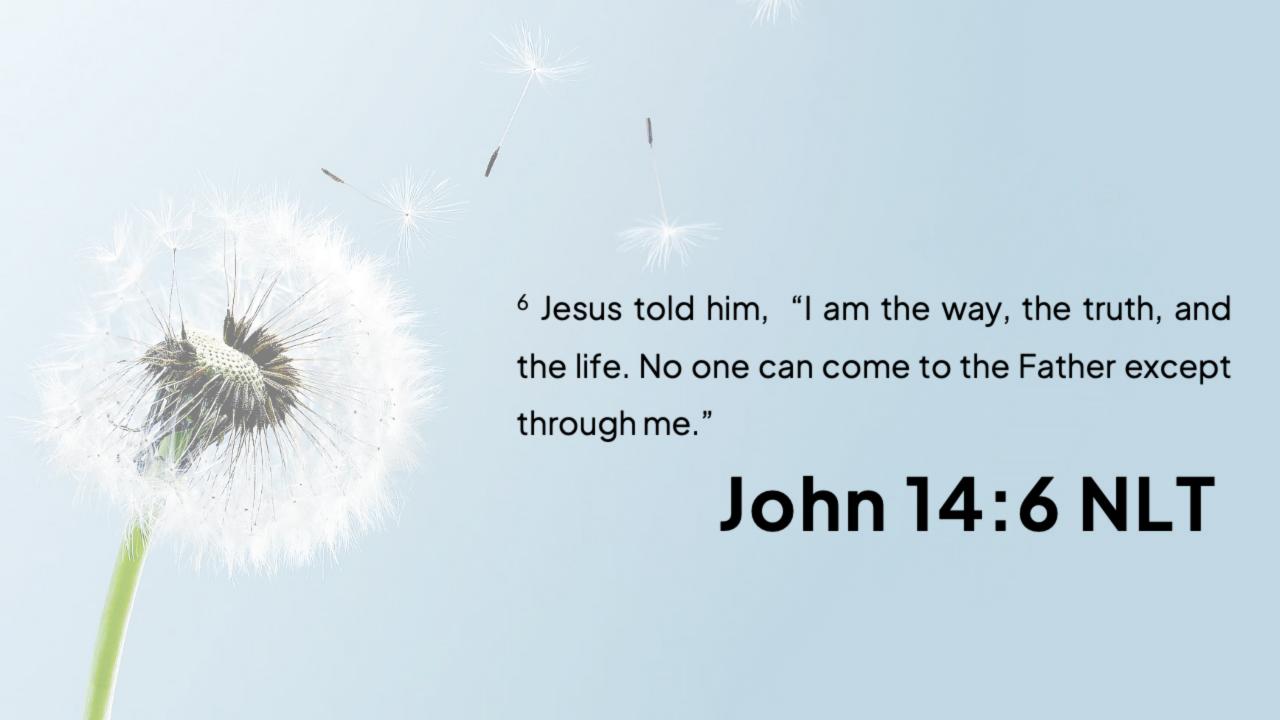
truth.



¹⁰ "Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹ For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says,

Acts 4:10-12 NLT

'The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.' ¹² There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved." Acts 4:10-12 NLT





When persecution came they responded with irrefutable **evidence**.



 The evidence of a changed life internally and externally.

 The evidence of a changed life internally and externally.

Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13 NASB

 The evidence of a changed life internally and externally.

¹⁴ But since they could see the man who had been healed standing right there among them, there was nothing the council could say.

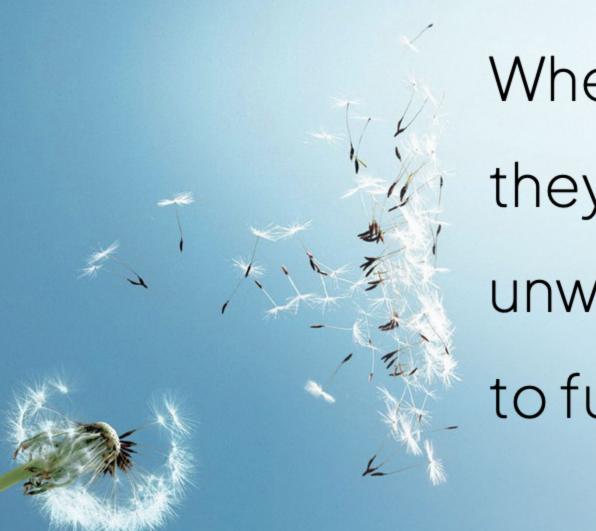
Acts 4:14 NLT



Peter uses the Greek verb sozo, to move from the irrefutable evidence of the beggar's **physical** healing, to the greater miracle of spiritual healing found only in the Name that brought about the **physical** healing.

The evidence was shared

both **verbally** and **visibly**.



When persecution came they responded with unwavering determination to fulfill the mission.



¹⁶ "What should we do with these men?" they asked each other. "We can't deny that they have performed a miraculous sign, and everybody in Jerusalem knows about it. ¹⁷ But to keep them from spreading their propaganda any further, we must warn

Acts 4:16-20 NLT



them not to speak to anyone in Jesus' name again." ¹⁸ So they called the apostles back in and commanded them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus.

¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, "Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him? ²⁰ We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard."

Acts 4:16-20 NLT



When persecution came they responded in **unity** and **prayer**.