

**How can the Church Thrive Under Pressure?**

December 27, 2020

**Text:** *Matthew 5:10-12, NLT; Acts 4:1-31, NIV*

**Christianity was Formed in a \_\_\_\_\_ Mindset**

**Rely on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit**

**Remain True to \_\_\_\_\_**

**Remain Faithful to \_\_\_\_\_**

**Stay \_\_\_\_\_ with God's People**

**We must Remain \_\_\_\_\_**

**Stay Committed to the \_\_\_\_\_ Above All Else**

## **Life Enrichment**

What about today's sermon challenged, disturbed, or encouraged you?

- What are some of the lessons you are learning about yourself and your faith during the pandemic?
- How do you think the current situation might affect your faith going forward? How might it affect the way we practice our faith (church gatherings, proclamation of the gospel, generosity, etc.)?
- Why do you think the “martyr mindset” that Jesus instilled in early followers has largely been lost on the American church? How can it be restored?
- What do you think it will take for the American church to rely more fully on the Holy Spirit?
- What are some of the things we are committed to? What place does (not should) our Christian faith hold in the list of those commitments?
- What are some ways we can learn to be more flexible and fluid in the expression of our faith?
- Should the Christian faith be outlawed, what abilities will we need to nurture to shift from the current model to a more organic/decentralized expression of faith?