

The Holy Spirit & Boldness: Introduction

When the Holy Spirit filled the Believers on the day of Pentecost, one of the divine abilities bestowed was boldness. It transformed these men and women from hiding in fear to becoming bold proclaimers (Acts 2).

When their proclamation attracted persecution, the disciples prayed for 'complete boldness'.¹ Their prayer was immediately granted, and they were emboldened by the Holy Spirit to confidently spread the word (Acts 4:31).

Boldness, as understood in the Biblical context, transcends mere personality traits. It involves acting with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and a profound conviction, even when confronted with danger. True boldness manifests as the courage to act or speak fearlessly, regardless of actual or perceived threats. Interestingly, even a timid introvert, when infused with the Holy Spirit, can exhibit boldness in situations where an outspoken individual might falter.

It's important to distinguish boldness from recklessness or aggression. However, boldness shares similarities with assertiveness by enabling folks to address situations effectively, despite the possibility of unfavourable outcomes.

"Have you received the boldness of the Spirit since you believed?"²



Shalom

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¹ Acts 4:29 'complete boldness' (BSB) 'all boldness' (KJV)

² A paraphrase of St. Paul's enquiry to the disciples in Corinth (Acts 19:1-2)

Take Courage



Acts 23:11-22, BSB

¹¹ The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, "Take courage! As you have testified about Me in Jerusalem, so also you must testify in Rome." ¹² When daylight came, the Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul. ¹³ More than forty of them were involved in this plot. ¹⁴ They went to the chief priests and elders and said, "We have bound ourselves with a solemn oath not to eat anything until we have killed Paul. ¹⁵ Now then, you and the Sanhedrin petition the commander to bring him down to you on the pretext of examining his case more carefully. We are ready to kill him on the way." ¹⁶ But when the son of Paul's sister heard about the plot, he went into the barracks and told Paul. ¹⁷ Then Paul called one of the centurions and said, "Take this young man to the commander; he has something to tell him." ¹⁸ So the centurion took him to the commander and said, "Paul the prisoner sent and asked me to bring this young man to you. He has something to tell you." ¹⁹ The commander took the young man by the hand, drew him aside, and asked, "What do you need to tell me?" ²⁰ He answered, "The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul to the Sanhedrin tomorrow on the pretext of acquiring more information about him. ²¹ Do not let them persuade you, because more than forty men are waiting to ambush him. They have bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they have killed him; they are ready now, awaiting your consent." ²² So the commander dismissed the young man and instructed him, "Do not tell anyone that you have reported this to me."



Can we – and should we – expect to be comforted and encouraged as Paul was in this passage?
How does one take courage in a hostile the midst of persecution?



Make this a subject of your conversation with God.