

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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4 April 2024

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)

The Holy Spirit Says...



Acts 21:1-14, BSB

¹ After we had torn ourselves away from them, we sailed directly to Cos, and the next day on to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. ² Finding a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, we boarded it and set sail. ³ After sighting Cyprus and passing south of it, we sailed on to Syria and landed at Tyre, where the ship was to unload its cargo. ⁴ We sought out the disciples in Tyre and stayed with them seven days. Through the Spirit they kept telling Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. ⁵ But when our time there had ended, we set out on our journey. All the disciples, with their wives and children, accompanied us out of the city and knelt down on the beach to pray with us. ⁶ And after we had said our farewells, we went aboard the ship, and they returned home. ⁷ When we had finished our voyage from Tyre, we landed at Ptolemais, where we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for a day. ⁸ Leaving the next day, we went on to Caesarea and stayed at the home of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the Seven. ⁹ He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied. ¹⁰ After we had been there several days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹ Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own feet and hands, and said, "The Holy Spirit says: 'In this way the Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and hand him over to the Gentiles.'" ¹² When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³ Then Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." ¹⁴ When he would not be dissuaded, we fell silent and said, "The Lord's will be done."



The Holy Spirit speaks to prepare, warn, or direct us. How do you read the words of the Holy Spirit in verse 11 – a warning to St Paul to avoid Jerusalem or to prepare for it?



Make this a subject of your conversation with God.