

## 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'.<sup>1</sup> 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?"<sup>2</sup>



Shalom

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4 April 2024

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<sup>1</sup> Acts 4:29 'complete boldness' (BSB) 'all boldness' (KJV)

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

## Stay Bold



Acts 18:1-11, BSB

<sup>1</sup> After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. <sup>2</sup> There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to visit them, <sup>3</sup> and he stayed and worked with them because they were tentmakers by trade, just as he was. <sup>4</sup> Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks alike. <sup>5</sup> And when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself fully to the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. <sup>6</sup> But when they opposed and insulted him, he shook out his garments and told them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” <sup>7</sup> So Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titus Justus, a worshiper of God. <sup>8</sup> Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his whole household believed in the Lord. And many of the Corinthians who heard the message believed and were baptized. <sup>9</sup> One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking; do not be silent. <sup>10</sup> For I am with you and no one will lay a hand on you, because I have many people in this city.” <sup>11</sup> So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching the word of God among the Corinthians.



Paul visited, stayed, and worked with fellow tentmakers Aquila & Priscilla.

- a. Outline his other actions in the passage.
- b. What degree of boldness is needed for each one?

*“From now on I will go to the Gentiles...”*

What skills are needed for cross cultural missions?



Make this a subject of your conversation with God.