

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

Adewale Adefuye
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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)

“Complete Boldness”



Acts 4:23-31, BSB

²³ On their release, Peter and John returned to their own people and reported everything that the chief priests and elders had said to them. ²⁴ When the believers heard this, they lifted up their voices to God with one accord. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “You made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them. ²⁵ You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of Your servant, our father David: ‘Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶ The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against His Anointed One.’ ²⁷ In fact, this is the very city where Herod and Pontius Pilate conspired with the Gentiles and the people of Israel against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed. ²⁸ They carried out what Your hand and will had decided beforehand would happen. ²⁹ And now, Lord, consider their threats, and enable Your servants to speak Your word with complete boldness, ³⁰ as You stretch out Your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.” ³¹ After they had prayed, their meeting place was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.



The context of today’s passage is best understood and appreciated when you start reading from Acts 4:13.

Read out Acts 4:13 slowly.

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognised that they had been with Jesus. ESV

- Did you get it?
- This divinely impacted boldness is not a product of education, social class, or finesse?
- How did they come to be bold?
- Did you notice they were already walking in boldness when they were threatened?
- What did they pray for after they were released?

I can see two elements in this **boldness**: conviction (persuasion) and prayer. What can you see?



Make this a subject of your conversation with God.