

Spiritual Boldness

Acts 4

Background:

Arrest and interrogation - Acts 4:1-7 - Three matters concerned the leadership, first, what the disciples were teaching about Jesus (Acts 4:2), second, the growing number of people who began following them (Acts 4:4b), and third, the miracle that no one could deny (Acts 4:7b).

Peter's message - Acts 4:8-12 - "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit" (John 14:6)

Salvation

New recognition - Acts 4:13-18 .

Precept: The boldness of Peter and John stands out. The Greek word translated "boldness" can be translated "confidence, plainly or openly, courageous". They were in full submission to the Holy Spirit, and fear was absent.

Proper response - Acts 4:19-20

Praising God - Acts 4:21-31 - Acts 4:21-22. This statement is an essential element in dealing with grief and loss and it comes down to understanding that God has seen to his plans and our best response is celebration. (Proverbs 27:1; Psalm 32:10)

Precept - Three important parts: God is completely sovereign, infinitely wise and perfectly loves me. (Lamentations 3:37-38)

Joyous hearts - Acts 4:32-37 - The inner response of these believers is stunning; in unity they do everything to support each other, and God blesses.

Concept: True joy has the power to overwhelm sorrow, loss, and our present view of reality. Things didn't change, their attitudes and inner sense of loss were properly aligned.

Conclusions on Spiritual Boldness First, no one ever starts out spiritually bold. We may have a bold personality (Peter) but true spiritual boldness is of the Lord (Acts 4:13b); it is rooted in a deep relationship with Jesus and God's Word and comes out as the Holy Spirit prompts us in a 'given situation' as we are fully submitted to the Holy Spirit (Acts 8).

Second, spiritual boldness is always rooted in the truth (Acts 4:9-12). It is never brash and overbearing, it is clear, gentle and speaks to heart. It is never designed to hurt, always to help someone as they struggle to embrace the truth.

Third, spiritual boldness is never arrogant; rather it rests in the sovereignty of God and anticipates the blessings of His will (Acts 4:24b-28). Spiritual boldness is finding a way in the midst of loss that aligns with the will of God and I, we, are all in this together (Acts 4:32-37). Spiritual boldness is contagious when it aligns with the truth (Acts 4:31).

Fourth, spiritual boldness is not intimidated by opposition (Acts 4:19-20). Spiritual boldness has roots in all who are in Christ Jesus; therefore it has Godly power to move people to do the best that could and should be done (Acts 4:32-37). Spiritual boldness binds believers in difficult times.