

Proverbs 28:1

“The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.”

Have you ever wondered what it would be like, feel like, look like... to be fearless in every area of your life? Can you imagine praying bold prayers that move mountains? Having a heart so bold it won't back down from any fear thrown your way? What would it mean to you to have a voice so bold, so free and unafraid to speak truth?

I believe this level of boldness is not only possible but it is to be the default position of sons and daughters of God. Those who have bent their knees to Jesus are called to be bold, have bold faith and speak with bold words...this is what we're called to.

Knowing this...I have a question for you this morning... why be bold? Why risk my reputation, my comfort... even my safety by being bold?

We'll try to answer that after we pray!

The dictionary defines the word bold as daring, brave, fearless.

I was thinking...Perhaps this definition of boldness is foreign to us. Maybe we think boldness is something just for those who are really spiritual or have an outgoing personality. Maybe because this idea of boldness has been lost in a religious fog and reduced to something I need to witness more...and because I don't witness I must not be bold...I can assure you boldness is so much more than that.

The Word has a definition of boldness as well...lets go back to Proverbs 28:1 and pick it apart...

“The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.”

Wicked = morally wrong

Flee = run away...to vanish

Righteous = morally right, lawful

Bold = Confident, secure, sure... to have trust in someone

The boldness of a lion is here compared with a follower of Christ. To understand this comparison, we need first of all to know what it means to be righteous...and the boldness of a lion.

An adult male African lion is over 400 pounds and 4 feet tall at the shoulder. Their enormous fangs, incredibly powerful necks, forelimbs and claws... allow them to hunt prey much larger. Lions regularly take down 600 pound plains zebras and 1,300 pound cape buffalo, will also take on giraffes and even elephants in the right situation.

Lions are unafraid to take down something bigger than them. Because... Lions know that there's a lion inside of them.

Boldness comes from knowing who is inside of us! Who makes us righteous!

We are righteous because in Christ, God declares us to be. - Romans 3:24

“Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.”

We are righteous because we trust in the Lord and believe by faith. - Romans 4:3

“For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Question... why do the wicked vanish when no one is chasing them? People not in a relationship with Jesus have no foundation to stand out.

When we believe what the Word says about who we are in Christ — righteous and forgiven because of His death and resurrection — we become bold. We’re more motivated to pray bold, live bold and speak up for Him because....

Boldness is about relationship!

In our series on the Holy Spirit, the gifts were not the goal, the goal was relationship and the gifts flow from that relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Boldness is not the goal, knowing Jesus is the goal. Boldness is always flows from knowing Jesus. From following Him, obeying Him and embedding yourself in a covenant relationship with Him.

Boldness comes from understanding who we are in Christ.

“Boldness is behavior born out of belief.” — Craig Groeschel pastor of Life Church

What this means is...what you believe determines how you behave. If you believe you are a redeemed son or daughter of God... it changes the way you behave. If you believe there is a lion inside of you...the Lion of Judah...boldness comes from that relationship.

I’m becoming more bold...because a lion has been released in me...I’m becoming more like Jesus!

Why be bold? Why should our prayers be bold? Why should our heart be bold and courageous and our words flow from that boldness?

**Because we are called to a rescue mission that requires boldness...let’s turn to
1st Samuel 17:34-37**

I love this story on so many levels but it’s David’s heart that inspires me...before he even fights the giant he shares an important lesson on boldness.

*But David persisted. “I have been taking care of my father’s sheep and goats,” he said. “When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. I have done this to both lions and bears, and I’ll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! **The LORD who rescued me** from the claws of the lion and the bear **will rescue me** from this Philistine!” Saul finally consented. “All right, go ahead,” he said. “And may the LORD be with you!”*

The Lord, who rescued me...will rescue me...

David boldness came from knowing who God was and what God was able to do...David fought with a bigger lion inside of him. Knowing God gave him the boldness for the rescue mission he was sent on. Boldness is behavior is born out of belief...David believed His God was for him!

Go to Acts 4:13

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

Greek word for boldness = (used over 42 times in NT) Freedom in speech, cheerful courage, free and fearless confidence.

Don’t you want to be like Peter and John? Well...the Greek for “Common” is the word *idiotas* (id-do-otes). This word means unlearned, unschooled, it can mean ordinary; but the most literal translation for the word *idiotas*,... is the word idiot! Basically, the religious leaders were amazed and couldn't believe the boldness of these idiots.

They were amazed... They also recognize these guys as men who had been with Jesus. How in the world could Peter stand in the face of possible death and declare what he did? He knew Jesus; he could be bold because he had been with Jesus.

And so can we...three thoughts from this passage.

1. GOD GIVES Ordinary PEOPLE EXTRAORDINARY BOLDNESS.
2. YOUR BOLDNESS WILL Amaze THE WORLD.
3. SPIRITUAL BOLDNESS COMES FROM Knowing CHRIST.

Ephesians 3:12

“in whom (Jesus) we have boldness and access (to God) with confidence through our faith in him.”