

Proverbs 30:30

A lion, which is mightiest among beasts and doesn't retreat before anything,

Lions have a ninja like quality to them...they are bold, not afraid to take on prey much bigger than themselves but they are extremely patient when they hunt. They will find a spot near a watering hole, behind some brush and wait for hours for other animals to come for a drink. After a large group of animals appear...then they make their move...they are patient...they can wait, no matter how hungry they may be because they are confident of the lion inside of them to catch their prey.

We don't usually think of patience, a willingness to wait as being a component of boldness.

However boldness isn't reckless...careless, or diving into a situation without thinking, boldness has the **powerful characteristic of purpose** behind its actions.

Boldness is our willingness to do the right thing at the right time, regardless of the opposition or fears we may face. It may be risky, but not reckless...there is always purpose behind moving with the boldness of God.

Our theme verse for this series...

Proverbs 28:1

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

I know how hard it is to have bold hearts in the world we live in...to be bold as a lion and not back down from anything. We constantly face the giants of despair, loss, fear and disease. Our identity is assaulted everyday...what we believe; our faith is mocked and even worse, discounted. Greater still is the threat of another lion actively seeking to devour us.

1 Peter 5:8-10 reminds us

*"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to **devour (to swallow whole)**. (9) **Resist (oppose)** him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. (10) And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has **called (called aloud with a divine purpose)** you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and **establish (to strengthen, change direction)** you."*

We need bold heart to oppose such an enemy...we need to be assured of who we are in Christ who promises to restore, confirm, strengthen and establish our hearts...with righteousness!

Righteousness is essential for a bold heart to remain bold! In Isaiah 54:14 is a huge proclamation on righteousness:

“In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you.”

Established= Hebrew word kûn (koon) a small word meaning to be firm, be stable, ...it is the word used when talking about God establishing the earth...an ongoing working of God's power. God's righteousness stabilizes our heart, making it steadfast and unmovable in character.

These are some awesome promises for sons and daughter...for those who are established in Christ's righteousness:

- 1. You shall be far (to widen the space in any direction) from oppression (injury, fraud, distress)*
- 2. You shall not fear.*
- 3. You won't experience terror (ruin).*
- 4. These things shall not even come near you!*

This passage doesn't mean things/life/enemy won't try to mess with you...it means we're so settled in God that these things can't change the status of our righteousness...our behavior....our character...our heart!

Those who know their identity in God are as bold as a lion - bold in prayer, bold in mission, bold in warfare against the strongholds of darkness. Greater is he who is within us (Jesus, the Lion of the tribe of Judah) than he who is in the world...we have a bigger lion inside of us!

Go to the book of Joshua, Chapter 14...one of my favorite Biblical characters...Caleb

Caleb knows what about the power of a bold heart... He was one of only two men that God delivered from slavery in Egypt through Moses that made it into the Promised Land. The rest of them died in the desert. Because of his faithful bold heart, God promises the hill country his fellow spies were afraid to enter.

Numbers 14:24

*But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me **wholeheartedly**, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.*

Joshua 14:10-13

“Now then, just as the Lord promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the wilderness. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me that day.

You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the Lord helping me, I will drive them out just as he said.” Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance.

Now that’s a bold hearted man, 85 years old and still ready to kick some Anakims, who were some nasty old giants, off the land that God had promised them. God said I could have that mountain and I believe Him. Caleb believed his God for the victory and was ready to battle for what God said was his. It’s this kind of radical boldness that we have been blessed with as well. The Father uses it to change us into bold hearted people, ready to battle and overcome the giants of this world.

Yes, God could have made a way for Caleb to enter the land at forty, but Caleb needed those 45 years of prep and He experience God’s presence in a way that made His faith stronger.

God faithfully kept His word to give the land to Caleb, but He also gave him an added blessing that had not been promised. He kept age from ravaging his body. Caleb watched the strength of the rest of the men in the camp wear out while he remained strong. He escaped the decay of age and stood at eighty-five as strong and vigorous as he had been at forty.

If you have been faithful to trust God through your obedience but His promise remains far off, perhaps another blessing waits for you in the interim. Ask God to give you a bold heart like Caleb, who believed even when he didn’t see.

Two lessons from this story...

Having a bold heart demands faith.

Psalm 27:13,14

“I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!”

Having a bold heart requires reliance on God

Deuteronomy 31:6 says,

“Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”

Remember... Boldness is our willingness to do the right thing at the right time, regardless of the opposition or fears we may face. It may be risky, but not reckless...there is always purpose in moving with the boldness of God.