

A Bold Faith

Acts 4:1-13

Presented by
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In the first twelve chapter we've seen three major movements...

- The confirmation of a risen Savior
- The birth of the Church
- Growing opposition to the proclamation of the gospel

BOLDNESS = PARRĒSIA

- “Parrēsia occurs when a speaker, at risk to himself or herself, speaks an unwelcome truth or gives unwelcome advice to a powerful person or group”
Michel Foucault
- “The term is used throughout Acts and usually refers to the way the gospel was being shared.” Ben Witherington III
- Biblical boldness is spirit-empowered and fostered by time spent with God.
- Peter’s boldness was not driven by his flesh but produced by the Spirit.
- Biblical boldness is tethered to the Spirit.

- The more we are with Jesus, the bolder we become.
- Biblical boldness will always draw people's attention to Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are you looking forward to in 2021?
- What are some of the hurdles to staying "tethered" to the Holy Spirit or spending time with Jesus?
- What is one example, thought or statement that you will take from this passage and ponder this week?

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

From: Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions

Length of days does not profit me

Except the days are passed in Thy presence, in Thy service to Thy glory.

Give me a grace that precedes, follows, guides, sustains

Sanctifies, aids every hour,

That I might not be one moment apart from Thee,

But may rely on thy Spirit

To supply every thought,

Speak every word,

Direct every step,

Prosper every work,

Build up every mote of faith,

And give me a desire

To show forth Thy praise,

Testify Thy love,

Advance Thy kingdom.

I launch my bark on the unknown waters of this year,

With Thee, O Father, as my harbour,

Thee O Son, at my helm,

Thee O Holy Spirit, filling my sails.

Guide me to heaven with my loins girt,

My lamp burning,

My ear open to thy calls,

My heart full of love, my soul free.

Give me Thy grace to sanctify me,

Thy comforts to cheer me,

Thy wisdom to teach,

Thy right hand to guide,

Thy counsel to instruct,

Thy law to judge,

Thy presence to stabilize.

May Thy fear be my awe,

Thy triumphs my joy.