

Spiritual Training Part 7 Boldness vs. Fearfulness

(Two perspectives)

Boldness vs. Fearfulness: A Pathway to Spiritual Growth

Perspective #1

In the journey of spiritual growth, the character quality of boldness plays a pivotal role in overcoming fearfulness and advancing God's kingdom.

Boldness is not merely an emotional state but a reflection of our faith and confidence in God. Fear, on the other hand, can hinder our ability to fulfill our spiritual purpose, silencing us and redirecting our steps away from God's calling.

This teaching explores the importance of boldness, its biblical foundation, and practical steps to cultivate it in our lives.

The Danger of Fearfulness

Fearfulness, particularly the fear of people, is a significant obstacle in the believer's walk of faith. **Proverbs 29:25** warns, "The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever leans on, trusts in, and puts his confidence in the Lord is safe and set on high" (AMP).

Fear traps us in silence and immobilizes us from advancing God's kingdom. It causes us to retreat instead of standing firm in faith.

The account of Elijah in **1 Kings 19** illustrates this vividly. After demonstrating supernatural boldness by defeating the prophets of Baal, Elijah fled for his life when Queen Jezebel threatened him. His direction and location were altered by fear, leading him to isolation in the wilderness.

Despite this, God did not abandon Elijah, reminding us that even when fear overtakes us, God's presence remains steadfast.

Boldness: A Biblical Mandate

Boldness is a defining characteristic of the righteous. **Proverbs 28:1** declares, "The righteous are bold as a lion" (NKJV). This quality enables believers to speak and act confidently, even in the face of opposition. Boldness is not arrogance; it is rooted in our relationship with God and reliance on His strength.

The early disciples exemplified boldness in their ministry. **Acts 4:13** recounts how Peter and John's boldness astonished onlookers who recognized that they had been with Jesus.

Their courage was not derived from their education or status but from their intimate connection with Christ. Similarly, in **Acts 4:29-31**, the apostles prayed for boldness to proclaim God's word amidst threats, demonstrating that boldness is both a gift from God and a response to prayer.

Overcoming Fear with Faith

To overcome fearfulness, believers must shift their focus from people to God. **Acts 18:9-10** records God's encouragement to Paul: "Have no fear, but speak and do not keep silent; for I am with you." This reassurance underscores that boldness arises from the awareness of God's presence and protection.

Philippians 1:28 further emphasizes this point: "Don't be afraid of your enemies; always be courageous, and this will prove to them that they will lose and that you will win, because it is God who gives you the victory" (TEV). Boldness is a testimony of our trust in God's victory through Christ.

Practical Steps to Cultivate Boldness

1. Spend Time with Jesus

Boldness grows as we deepen our relationship with Christ. **Acts 4:13** highlights how Peter and John's boldness was evident because they had been with Jesus. Regular prayer, worship, and meditation on Scripture allow His courage to permeate our lives.

2. Pray for Boldness

As demonstrated by the apostles in **Acts 4:29-31**, prayer is essential for cultivating boldness. Ask God for the courage of Christ to be manifested and speak His word and act according to His will.

3. Trust in God's Promises

Fear diminishes when we trust in God's promises of protection and support. **Hebrews 13:5-6** assures us that God will never leave nor forsake us: "The Lord is my Helper; I will not be seized with alarm [I will not fear or dread or be terrified]. What can man do to me?" (AMP).

4. Focus on Your Purpose

Jesus was unwavering in His mission to preach the kingdom of God (**Luke 4:43**). Similarly, believers must remain focused on their purpose to advance God's kingdom by being a light in the world, providing hope, and glorifying the Father.

5. Refuse to Be Controlled by Fear

Fear should not dictate our actions or decisions. Elijah's account reminds us that fear can redirect our steps away from God's plan. Instead, we must choose boldness and trust in God's guidance.

6. Be Led by the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit empowers believers with boldness to proclaim the gospel (**Acts 4:31**). Rely on His leading to navigate challenges and opportunities for ministry.

The Role of Boldness in Advancing God's Kingdom

Advancing God's kingdom involves interacting with people—sharing the gospel, providing hope, and setting a godly example.

Fear of people can hinder these interactions, silencing believers and preventing them from fulfilling their mission. Boldness enables us to overcome these barriers and speak confidently about our faith.

Jesus modeled this perfectly during His earthly ministry. He was never afraid of people or circumstances; instead, He consistently preached about His Father's kingdom (**Luke 8:1; Luke 9:11**).

As His followers, we are called to emulate His example by speaking boldly about the good news of salvation.

Conclusion

Boldness is an essential character quality for spiritual growth and effective ministry. It empowers believers to overcome fearfulness, speak confidently about their faith, and advance God's kingdom.

While fear may attempt to silence us, our trust in God's promises and reliance on His presence equip us to stand firm.

As **Hebrews 13:6** reminds us, "The Lord is my Helper; I will not be seized with alarm." Let us embrace boldness as a reflection of our faith and commitment to God's purpose.

Through prayer, trust in His promises, and dependence on the Holy Spirit, we can cultivate boldness that glorifies our heavenly Father and inspires others to follow Him.

Perspective #2

Let's talk about something that's super important in our spiritual journey—**boldness vs. fearfulness**. It's such a key part of how we live out our faith and advance God's kingdom. Fear can hold us back, but boldness? That's what helps us step forward in faith and make an impact.

Remember Elijah? He was bold and victorious, operating in supernatural faith when he confronted the prophets of Baal.

But then Jezebel threatened him, and fear took over. He ran for his life, hid, and even prayed to die (**1 Kings 19:1-4**). Fear changed his **direction**, his **location**, and his **mindset**. It's a reminder of how powerful fear can be—but also how God doesn't give up on us even when we're struggling.

Proverbs 28:1 says, "The righteous are bold as a lion." That's the kind of boldness we need to embrace—lion-like courage that comes from knowing we're walking with God. And here's the good news: spending time with Jesus rubs off on us. Just like **Peter** and **John** in **Acts 4:13**, people will see the boldness of Jesus in us when we've been with Him.

Fear of people is such a big obstacle in our walk of faith. It makes us silent when we should speak, hesitant when we should act.

But advancing God's kingdom involves people—it means connecting, sharing, and loving boldly. If we let fear rule us, it's tough to fulfill our purpose.

Look at what God told Paul in **Acts 18:9-10**: "Have no fear, but speak and do not keep silent; for I am with you." That's a direct call to boldness! And it's not just for Paul—it's for all of us. Boldness is God's will for His followers.

Ephesians 6:18-20 reminds us to pray for boldness—to open our mouths and proclaim the gospel courageously. And **Philippians 1:28** encourages us to be courageous even in the face of enemies, knowing that God gives us the victory.

So why do we need spiritual training in boldness? Here are some reasons:

- To be a light in the darkness
- To provide hope for the hopeless
- To set a godly example
- To advance God's kingdom
- To glorify our Heavenly Father
- To follow Jesus' example (He was never afraid of people!)
- To walk in love and speak about our Father's kingdom

Look at Jesus—He wasn't afraid of people, so He wasn't silent. He went from town to town preaching about the kingdom of God (**Luke 8:1, Luke 9:11, Luke 4:43**). That was His focus—His Father's kingdom. And that should be ours too.

Fear can make us feel stuck or change our direction, like it did with Elijah. But even when Elijah ran and hid, God didn't give up on him. He worked with him, reassured him, and brought him back. **Hebrews 13:6** reminds us that we can boldly say, "The Lord is my Helper; I will not fear." And **Joshua 1:5** promises that God will never fail or forsake us. Isn't that comforting?

So, here's the takeaway: Boldness is a character quality we should cultivate—just like patience, love, and faith. Fearfulness might try to creep in, but we don't have to let it rule us. With God as our Helper, we can stand firm and speak boldly about His kingdom.

Let's keep growing in boldness together!

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