

BE BOLD

Stand Up, Speak Up, Pray Up

Acts 4:23-31

23 And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. 24 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: “Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, 25 who [a]by the mouth of Your servant David have said:

**‘Why did the nations rage,
And the people plot vain things?
26 The kings of the earth took their stand,
And the rulers were gathered together
Against the Lord and against His Christ.’**

27 “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together 28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. 29 Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, 30 by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”

31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

POINT: The early church prayed for boldness NOT blessing!

Boldness: Willingness to take risks and act innovatively (Oxford Dictionary)

1. Stand Up (vs. 23-28)

Picture of Christ in Acts 4:

God is Sovereign (*You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them*)

God is Victorious (*Why did the nations rage, and the people plot things vain things*)

God is Christ (*Your Holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed*)

“The Sovereignty of God is the pillow which the child of God rests his head at night, giving perfect peace.” –Charles Spurgeon

POINT: What we do for Christ is determined by how we view Christ.

ACTION STEP: I will stand up for Christ no matter it costs me.

2. Speak Up (vs. 29)

“Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words.” -Francis of Assisi

“Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.” Philippians 1:27

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:14-17

POINT: They prayed for boldness to speak the Word NOT live the Word!

“You can’t win people to Christ with a shut mouth.” –Roy Fish

ACTION STEP: I will pray every day that Christ will give me boldness to share with someone.

3. Pray Up (vs. 31)

“Pray for great things, expect great things, work for great things, but above all....pray.” R.A. Torrey

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.” Matthew 7:7-8

ACTION STEP: Before I stand up and speak up....I will be prayed up.

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.” Acts 4:13