

Moving Forward in Boldness

Joshua 1:9; Acts 4:29

Introduction

Fear is a powerful force that can hold us back from fulfilling our calling. It can cause hesitation, paralyze decision-making, and tempt us to retreat. Yet, Scripture calls us repeatedly to move forward—not in our own strength, but in God's strength—with boldness and courage.

Boldness is not arrogance, nor is it recklessness. It is **a Spirit-empowered confidence that arises from trusting God**. When we know that God is with us, we can take courageous steps into the unknown, speak truth without fear, and live with purpose and passion—even in the face of opposition.

Biblical Definition of Boldness

Boldness is *confident and courageous behavior that comes from faith in God*, especially in the face of difficulty, danger, or opposition.

The Greek word *parrēsia* used in the New Testament means:

- Freedom of speech
- Fearless confidence
- Openness and courage

Boldness is a mark of those filled with the Holy Spirit and grounded in God's promises.

Focus Statement

Confidence in God enables us to step out in faith without fear.

Key Point

Boldness is required to take new territory in our faith and calling.

Main Points

1. Be Strong and Courageous – *Joshua 1:9*

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Joshua stood before the Promised Land, facing the unknown. God's command to him—and to us—is to move forward boldly, trusting in His constant presence.

2. Speak the Word Boldly – Acts 4:29

“Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.”

The early church didn't pray for protection—they prayed for boldness. Their confidence came from the Holy Spirit, not from comfort or safety. This same power is available to us.

3. Overcoming Fear: Trusting God Empowers Action

Isaiah 41:10 – “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.”

Fear doesn't disappear on its own—it is replaced by faith. Boldness is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to obey God in spite of it.

Examples of Boldness in Scripture

- **David before Goliath** (1 Samuel 17): Trusted in God more than he feared the enemy.
 - **Esther before the king** (Esther 4:16): Risked her life to save her people—“If I perish, I perish.”
 - **Daniel in the lion's den** (Daniel 6): Continued to pray boldly despite the threat of death.
 - **Stephen before the Sanhedrin** (Acts 7): Boldly proclaimed Jesus even as he faced martyrdom.
 - **Paul before rulers** (Acts 26): Testified courageously about Christ to kings and governors.
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Closing Challenge

What area of your life is fear holding you back?

- Is it sharing your faith?
- Stepping into leadership?
- Trusting God with a major life decision?
- Starting something new or making a change?

This week, take one bold step of faith.

Pray for courage. Trust God's presence. Walk forward boldly.

“The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.” – **Proverbs 28:1**