

# Time to be BOLD!

Anna Gerhauser  
Church on the Park Live | Sunday 21 June 2020

At the end of April God began to speak this message of BOLDNESS to my heart. It's been percolating for a while, but I believe this is the **exact right time** the Lord wanted me to bring it.

God is saying, **"It is time for my people to be bold. I am your confidence."**

## Defining Biblical boldness:

- Boldness is **not pride** (I am the greatest!)
- Spiritual boldness is **not bravado** ("a bold manner or a show of boldness intended to impress or intimidate")
- not the result of "*feeling* bold"; it's the result of knowing that God is with you and in you
- Opposite to boldness is fear and discouragement, shrinking back, hanging your head
- In the **New Testament**, the greek word for boldness can also mean confidence, courage, fearlessness, freespokenness
- In the **Old Testament**, when you read "bold" (eg the righteous are as bold as a lion in Prov 28:1), the Hebrew word can also be literally translated as **confidence**. Other translations include, trust, to rely, to set one's hope and confidence, to be secure, to fear nothing for oneself
- From this we can see that Biblical boldness has to do with **confidence in who God is** and not confidence in ourselves.

*For this reason I remind you to **fan into flame the gift of God**, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the **Spirit** God gave us does **not make us timid**, but gives us **power, love and self-discipline**. (2 Timothy 1:6-7)*

Often quote verse 7, but the context is verse 6 - using your gifts!

## ORDINARY PEOPLE

Do you feel ordinary? Sometimes we can't believe that God could use us, just because of how ordinary we feel. We think when we finally feel good enough or spiritual enough, impressive enough, self-confident enough, that we'll be used by God. But that's worldly thinking. God doesn't need superheroes - HE IS the superhero; God doesn't need celebrities - HE'S THE ONE with the Name above all names. He doesn't need your money - He has unlimited resources.

God doesn't NEED us, but He does WANT us. He could do a much better job without us. But in His wisdom, love and humility He condescends to work with us, like a maestro giving his masterpiece, his final and greatest composition to a kid with a busted up violin to play. Not only that, He gives the kid his own violin - a Stradivarius - and commits to giving daily lessons, and empowers the child to play it beautifully. God allows us to share in His glory... to share the beautiful life-giving sounds He created. The way God does things - the way God works with us - shows us how loving, kind and generous His heart is.

**Similarly, Jesus entrusted the Gospel message to 12 ordinary men.**

*Therefore, since we have such a hope (message of righteousness through faith in Jesus), we are very bold. (2 Corinthians 3:12)*

*"Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people!*

*When they saw the **courage\* (boldness, confidence)** of Peter and John and realized that they were **unschooled, ordinary men**, they were astonished and they took note that **these men had been with Jesus.**"*  
*Acts 4:8, 13 NIV*

*1 Corinthians 1:26-2:5*

## **NO EXCUSES**

We can romanticise about the people God uses - people we see on tv, people in books we've read and heroes of the faith read about in the Bible. But we forget they were ordinary people like you and me, with real struggles. They got up in the morning and had to put their pants on. They had to brush teeth. They were real people (Elijah was a man just like us!). They had bad days, They simply kept saying **YES** to obeying God (daily) - God was **with them** and **empowered** them to do His will. He made them bold.

BOLDNESS starts with saying "YES"

Let's take a look at some of these people...

### **Jeremiah**

READ Jeremiah 1:5-7

The Lord has chosen you, He has anointed you (v5). Jeremiah immediately starts looking at his inadequacies- can't speak (natural skills), **too young** (feeling like he lacks authority to speak... people will say "Who do you think you are!?" Not wise in human eyes).

*"But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you."*

*Jeremiah 1:7 NIV*

Reminds me of what Paul said to Timothy:

*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. (1 Timothy 4:12)*

- What matters is what God says.
- No excuses: we cannot keep looking at our weakness, obstacles, feelings and use them as excuses for not obeying God
- Do you hear God's call for absolute obedience... to do/say whatever He commands, not pick and choose ("I'll do that, but I won't do *that*"), or do something, but how and when YOU want to.

Keys to boldly obeying (stepping out):

*"Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord. Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth." (Jeremiah 1:8-9 NIV)*

- Knowing that God is with you
- God will back His word (His words in your mouth)
- Listen to God and then speak what he gives you
- \* Let God purify your tongue \* (reminded of Isaiah's call also)

## **Moses**

Exodus 3:9-

God heard the cry of the Israelites, He remembers His covenant with Abraham and is concerned for their suffering. He called Moses to be their deliverer.

**Moses had issues** (see Glen's sermon "What's in your hand"). He also would've felt like he didn't fit in anywhere - not fully accepted by the Egyptians or the Israelites.

10. "I am sending you."

11. But Moses said to God, "Who am I...?"

12. **And God said, "I will be with you."**

Moses' staff was a prophetic picture of Moses himself (and of us) - under the direction of God, put into the hands of God, ordinary things can become extraordinary and be used to show His glory.

In Exodus 4 we see Moses struggling to accept God's call (this scene is awesomely portrayed in the movie Prince of Egypt):

**"What if they don't believe me** or listen to me and say, "The LORD didn't appear to you?" (v1)

Go anyway. If people don't receive you, it doesn't mean God didn't call you. That's God's business, not yours. Success is obedience to God (just look at Jeremiah's life!). Don't live for validation from people - live for God's "well done".

***"I've never been eloquent... I'm slow of speech and tongue."***

11. The LORD said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"

12. Now go; **I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.**"

24. On the way to Egypt, "the Lord met Moses and was about to kill him." Zipporah quickly circumcised her son "so the Lord let him alone."

**We cannot represent God unless we obey Him in our personal lives.** And God cannot bless disobedience. We cannot put the voice of a family member above the voice of God. As a Moabite, circumcision was not part of Zipporah's culture. It seemed cruel to her. Moses had given into family pressure. But **circumcision was a sign that they were covenant people - that they belonged to God... that they were the recipients of His blessing and they were committed to obeying Him.** It was something that was **hidden**, not outwardly seen by other people, something they were reminded of daily. **Is your heart circumcised** - have you allowed God to cut away the flesh? Is your heart wholly devoted to Him, to please Him, to obey Him no matter what? Even if it hurts? Do you live like you belong to God?

About a month ago, out of nowhere, I was starting to feel really insecure, inadequate and under-skilled. I was talking to the Lord about it and He said to me, **"Do I have your heart, Anna?"** I answered, "Yes, Lord." And He replied, "That's all I want."

What's the GPS setting of your heart? Is your heart set on doing the Father's will, to please him? God is looking for faithfulness.

## Gideon

Judges 6. **The Israelites are being oppressed by the Midianites and Amalekites** - they are taking their crops, livestock, terrorising them, ravaging the land. The Israelites are left impoverished and **they cry out to God for help - God calls a man** named Gideon. Starting to see a pattern? YOU are God's answer to someone's cry, you are God's agent of deliverance.

READ verses 11 - 16

Gideon feels abandoned by God, feels weak (my clan is the weakest, I am the least in my family), struggling with doubt.

God says **"Go in the strength you have** and save Israel out of Midian's hand. **Am I not sending you?"** (v14) ... **"I will be with you..."** (v16)

Don't wait to *feel* bold before you obey God. Don't wait to you feel stronger. Just say YES. When God sends you, He promises to go with you. **When you step out in obedience, He empowers you.**

Like Moses, **Gideon had to obey God in his personal life** - to put obedience to God above his family. God told him to tear down his Father's altar to Baal and Asherah pole (idolatry) and build an altar to the Lord.

*So Gideon took ten of his servants and **did as the LORD told him**. But because **he was afraid** of his family and the townspeople, he did it at night rather than in the daytime. V27*

In the morning, the people see the altar to Baal torn down and they are furious - they want to kill Gideon! But God defends him in a surprising way. Be obedient even if you are afraid. God will deliver you too.

Then the Spirit of the LORD came on Gideon, and he blows a trumpet, summoning people to follow him! (v34)

**The Holy Spirit makes Gideon bold.** Once full of fear, doubting, extremely cautious, Gideon is now loudly blowing a trumpet, calling people to join him to fight their enemies!

That's why we need to **continually ask the Holy Spirit to fill us.**

*"Let anyone who is thirsty keep coming to me and let him keep drinking." John 7:37*

Well, we know the rest of the story: God whittles down Gideon's army of 32,000 down to 300 "or Israel would boast against me, 'My own strength has saved me.'" (v2).

God sends fear into the heart of their enemies and delivers Israel. READ Vs 19-22

*But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. (2 Corinthians 4:7)*

**You are God's secret weapon** ( treasures disguised in jars of clay)

*John 1:5 the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

## **Jacob**

*Read Genesis 28:10-17*

*When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and **I was not aware of it.**" (Genesis 28:16)*

God was not only speaking (blessing) Jacob, but Jacob's seed - that includes us. When he **rested**, he was given a vision into the spirit realm - what was really happening. He thought he was alone in a wilderness. Know that **God is with you even if you don't see or feel it.**

You may feel like you're in a wilderness, your only pillow is a rock (an uncomfortable place)! But **we are the house of God wherever we are** - "walking

**portals to Heaven**". Prayer (like Glen shared last week) accesses the resources of Heaven, brings them to earth.

## **PRAY FOR BOLDNESS**

**If we boldly approach the throne of grace daily, we will boldly go out into the world.**

*Hebrew 11: 6 Anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that He exists and that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him. (MSG)*

*He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. (Psalm 91:1)*

This is why Glen's message last week is so important - why daily times with God are so important. We come out of the secret place knowing that God is with us.

Joshua was a man who took every opportunity to be in God's presence.

Glen's message - the kitten going into the secret place and coming out a lion.

The Apostles pray for boldness:

Acts 4:23-31

*Acts 4:31 After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.*

Ephesians 6:19

*Psalm 138:3 On the day I called, You answered me; You made me bold with strength in my soul.*

## **CONCLUSION**

It's time to be bold - to put your confidence in God! I've been encouraged to see some people stepping out and sharing what God gives them. And it's that simple: freely receive, freely give; give what God gives you - no more, no less. God doesn't want a flurry of activity - He just wants people who are available, faithful, obedient *to Him*. I believe some of you have been attacked by a spirit of discouragement (I know what that's like!) To rob you of courage and sap your strength. All you feel like is lying down. You don't feel like getting up, but God is saying **ARISE**. Put your faith in God's Word instead of your feelings.

- Spend time with Jesus daily (see Glen's message from last week) - this is the most important thing. Continually ask Him to teach you His ways and fill you with the Holy Spirit.
- Surrender - **DAILY SAY YES TO GOD**. Let God use you however, whenever He wants (Galatians 2:20)

- Be someone God can rely on to do His will, no matter how you feel.
- When the Lord prompts you to say something (or to not say nothing!) or do something, in your heart say “Yes, Lord.” Holy Spirit give me power to do the Father’s will.

As you know, we’re about to take our annual leave and are organising host homes while we’re away. The aim of these is to activate every member of the church. Glen and I are not the church. God wants every part to minister His life to one another. It’s not about trying to BE or DO anything, but being open to the Holy Spirit, living yielded, ready, obedient. God has told me many times, “Just be yourself and let the Holy Spirit flow through you.” Trees moving in the wind are evidence that there is wind. **When you allow the Holy Spirit to move you, you testify to the world and others that God is real.** *“For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose.”*  
(Philippians 2:13)

**Side note:** Be gracious and gentle with one another. We are all learning to hear the Holy Spirit. These meetings should be a safe place where people can step out in faith and share what God gives them. Before you meet, ask God to fill you with His love for His people - that’s what I do. Like the Scripture Steve shared, *“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision, has any value. The only thing that matters is faith expressing itself through love.”* Galatians 5:6

To be a man or woman of God is to **be a person God can rely on** to do His will, no matter how they feel, no matter what’s going on around them or if other’s don’t.

*For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to **strengthen** those whose **hearts are fully committed** to him.* 2 Chronicles 16:9

*“The one who sent me is **with me**; he has not left me alone for **I always do what pleases him.**”* John 8:29

## END NOTES

*“Such confidence we have **through Christ before God**. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but **our competence comes from God**. He has **made us** competent as ministers of a new covenant— not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”*

*2 Corinthians 3:4-6 NIV*

- we minister with the mindset/heart attitude before God, not people.
- God is the one who qualifies us, who enables us

“When I called, you answered me; you greatly emboldened me.”

“You’re not my lackey”

Psalm 138:3 On the day I called, You answered me; You made me bold with strength in my soul.

Acts 4:31 After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:13 The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.

Proverbs 28:1 The wicked flee when no one is pursuing them, but [the righteous are as bold as a lion](#).

(Need to know when you ask for forgiveness- you are immediately forgiven. God us not like us- He doesn't say, "when I calm down and I don't feel so upset with you then I'll forgive you."

Need to stop looking at yourself, at your inadequacy

I used to think so much relied on me- now I realise it all relies on Him; I simply join in with what He already wants to do.

Circumcision- a reminder that you are a covenant people and God is the one who blesses you and makes you fruitful.

Covenant- God promises to bless you. We promise to obey Him.

"According to Genesis, God told Abraham to **circumcise** himself, his household and his slaves as an everlasting covenant in their flesh. Those who were not **circumcised** were to be 'cut off' from their people (Genesis 17:10-14). Note the connection between **circumcision** and slavery."



Moses staff- the Lord's staff  
Sword of The Lord and of Gideon

Hazach

Something that only you can do!

The darkness can neither comprehend (understand) the light nor overcome (overpower) it.

Jesus also came as a vessel of clay, filled with the light and life of God.

Your ordinary-ness is your secret weapon (Trojans horse).

"Naturally supernatural" pastor Dennis

- Jesus is the light within you; you on your own have no light (Jn 1:8)

Don't look at your weakness. *"Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always."* (1 Chronicles 16:11)

When we rest, come away with God, He shows us how things really are. (Matthew 17, Mount of Transfiguration another example). Isaiah tells us that outwardly Jesus *"had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him."* (Isaiah 53:2). But when the disciples ascended the mountain, they saw Jesus as His true glorified self. The most important takeaway from the Father: "This is my Son... LISTEN TO HIM!"

God spoke to me just before leading worship one Sunday, "Don't ever doubt that I am with you."

## **BEING WITH JESUS**

### **FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for **the LORD your God** goes **with you**; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.* (Deuteronomy 31:6) Context: Moses' words to Joshua before he dies. "I am leaving, but God will be with you."

In other words, guard against fear and discouragement. Remember that God - YOUR GOD (personal) is with you; He will never leave you! His presence (His being with you) is your source of strength, empowering you to faithfully stand, not be moved or shaken. His presence (knowing that ALL-POWERFUL GOD is WITH YOU) gives you boldness and courage.

*The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.* (Deuteronomy 31:8)

God himself speaks similar words to Joshua in Joshua 1:6-9 as well as "be careful to obey". It's good to hear through other people, but it's better to hear for yourself.

Joshua loved the presence of God. He was of a different spirit. Everyone else was about their own well-being, but Joshua was committed to doing God's will.

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; Never will I forsake you."

So we say with **confidence (full of courage, boldly)**; “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”

## CAN GOD RELY ON YOU?

God is with those who are with Him.

MOSES - circumcision

Does God have your heart? Will you obey Him when it hurts?

Don't wait till you FEEL special before you let God use you. Everything that the Bible says we are - Holy, Royal people, Kings and priests is because of grace, because of the cross. We didn't deserve it or earn it.

God empowers people who are completely committed to obeying Him, to carrying out His will - this is a life of worship.

ORDINARY PEOPLE

MINISTER BEFORE GOD, NOT PEOPLE

“Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.”  
2 Corinthians 3:12 NIV

\* παρρησία



parrēsia **confidence; boldness; plainly**

**BDAG** outspokenness, frankness, plainness; openness to the public; courage, confidence, boldness, fearlessness,

**WSNTDICT**

**Louw-Nida** boldness, courage

**DBL Greek** courage

**TDNT**

**Greek-English Dict. of N.T.** openness, frankness; openly, plainly, freely; boldness, confidence, assurance; before the public; to be known publicly; make a public example of

**NASB Dictionaries** speech; freedom of speech; confidence

**LEH LXX Lexicon** confidence; freedom of action; boldness; boldness of speech; openly; with boldness

**An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon** freespokenness; openness; frankness; licence of tongue

**ANLEX** boldness, plainness, outspokenness; openness; publicly; courage, confidence, boldness; confidence, boldness, joyful sense of freedom

**LXGRCANLEX** confidence; boldness; plainly; plainly; frankness; confidence; boldness; plainness

**TDNTA**

**Building Your New Testament Greek Vocabulary 3rd Edition** openness, confidence

**Enhanced Strong's Lexicon**

**A Pocket Lexicon to the Greek New Testament**

**The Lexham Analytical Lexicon of the Septuagint** openness; frankness; confidence; קוֹמְמִיּוֹת; in an upright position; ענג; to pamper or refresh oneself; to take one's pleasure in; to make fun about; (pt.) weak; קול

“In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.”  
Ephesians 3:12 NIV

Confidence toward God = confidence towards people

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

\*literally, confidence



**bṭḥ trust; be confident; unsuspecting; hif. to cause to rely; inspire confidence**

**HAL** trust; be confident; unsuspecting; cause to rely; inspire confidence

**BDB** trust

**Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament** TO CONFIDE IN; TO SET ONE'S HOPE AND CONFIDENCE; to be secure, to fear nothing for oneself; to cause to trust; to make secure

**CHAL** trust; be full of confidence; unsuspecting; direct; trust; inspire trust

**DBL Hebrew** trust; lead to believe

**NASB Dictionaries** to trust

**TWOT**

**Enhanced Strong's Lexicon**

**Abridged BDB**

**A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Greek Testament and The Hebrew Bible**

**Building Your Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary** to trust, be confident; (; Hi.; ) to cause to rely on someone

Micah 7:5-8 - don't put your confidence in people, put your hope in God "do not rejoice over me my enemy, when I fall I shall rise"