

Working the Word

Boldness in discipleship

Assigned to: Min. Oliver Laday - July 29, 2026

As Harvest Time Bible Church continues to expand, enlarge, and increase in 2026, God is calling us to boldly share the Gospel and make disciples. Growth does not happen through silent believers. It happens when Spirit-filled believers boldly tell others about Jesus.

Someone is waiting on you.
Someone's prayer may be answered through your obedience.
The Kingdom expands when disciples make disciples.

Acts 4:29 (KJV)

"And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word."

What is boldness?

Boldness is not the absence of fear.
Boldness is obeying God despite fear.
Biblical boldness is confidence produced by the Holy Spirit that enables believers to speak and act for Christ regardless of opposition.

The Greek word for boldness is parrhesia, meaning:

- Freedom in speaking
- Confidence
- Courage
- Fearless openness

Boldness comes from the Holy Spirit, not from personality.
Some people are naturally outgoing, but true spiritual boldness comes from God.

Why do many believers fear sharing their faith?

1. Fear of rejection

Many believers fear being rejected, mocked, or ignored.
Jesus warned this would happen.

John 15:20 (KJV)

"Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you."

Illustration

A salesman may hear “no” ten times before hearing “yes.”

If he quits after one rejection, he never makes a sale.

Likewise, if believers stop after one rejection, they may miss the person God has prepared.

2. Fear of not knowing enough

Many believers think:

- What if they ask me a question?
- What if I don't know the answer?

Yet Jesus never said we must know everything.

He simply told us to be witnesses.

Acts 1:8 (KJV)

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me...”

A witness simply tells what he has seen and experienced.

3. Fear of man

Many believers care more about what people think than what God thinks.

Proverbs 29:25 (KJV)

“The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.”

Fear traps people.

Faith frees people.

Jesus empowered His disciples

Before Jesus sent the disciples, He empowered them.

God never asks us to do His work in our own strength.

Luke 24:49 (KJV)

“And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”

The disciples were fearful before Pentecost.

After receiving the Holy Spirit, everything changed.

Peter: from fearful to bold

Peter once denied Jesus three times.

Matthew 26:69-75 (KJV)

He feared being associated with Jesus.

But after receiving the Holy Spirit, Peter boldly preached before thousands.

Acts 2:14 (KJV)

“But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice...”

Three thousand people were saved that day.

What changed?

Many believers are trying to witness without depending on the Holy Spirit.

God never intended us to do ministry disconnected from His power.

Peter prayed for boldness

Even after experiencing miracles, Peter and the early church still prayed for boldness.

Acts 4:29 (KJV)

“And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word.”

They did not pray:

- Remove the opposition.
- Remove the persecution.
- Remove the challenge.

They prayed:

“Give us boldness.”

God's answer was:

Acts 4:31 (KJV)

“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.”

The Holy Spirit produces bold witnesses.

We do not have the spirit of fear

2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV)

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

Notice the three gifts God gives:

Power

The ability to do what God commands.

Love

Love for lost people greater than fear of rejection.

Sound mind

Confidence and clarity to speak for Christ.

Fear does not come from God.

Boldness does.

Why boldness matters in discipleship**Without boldness:**

- We will not share our faith.
- We will not invite others to church.
- We will not disciple others.
- We will not fulfill the Great Commission.

Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV)

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...”

The command is clear:

Go. Teach. Make disciples.

Boldness turns disciples into disciple-makers.

Faith action steps

- Ask the Holy Spirit daily for boldness.

Acts 4:29

- Share your testimony with at least one person this week.
- Invite one person to church.
- Pray for opportunities to share the Gospel.

Conclusion

The same Holy Spirit who empowered Peter, Paul, and the early church lives in every believer today. God has not given us a spirit of fear. He has given us power to boldly proclaim Jesus and make disciples. Someone is waiting on your witness. Someone is waiting on your invitation. Someone is waiting on your discipleship. Be bold and obey God. Hallelujah.