

5-Day Devotional: Boldness in Christ Alone

Day 1: The Power of One Name

Reading: Acts 4:1-12

Devotional: Peter's declaration rings through the ages: "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved." In a world offering countless paths to fulfillment, this exclusive claim challenges us. The religious leaders demanded to know by what power Peter healed the lame man, and his answer was uncompromising—Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Today, examine where you're placing your confidence. Is it truly in Christ alone, or have you added your own achievements, religious activities, or moral performance to the equation? Salvation isn't Jesus plus anything; it's Jesus, period. When you grasp this truth in your heart, not just your head, it transforms how you live. Let the sufficiency of Christ's name become your anchor today.

Reflection Question: What have I been adding to Jesus in my pursuit of salvation or acceptance by God?

Day 2: Uneducated but Transformed

Reading: Acts 4:13-22

Devotional: The religious elite were astonished. These were ordinary fishermen—uneducated, common men—yet they spoke with profound authority. The secret? "They had been with Jesus." You don't need a theology degree to share your faith. You don't need to memorize entire books of the Bible before you can be a witness. What changes everything is the combination of knowing your desperate sinfulness and experiencing the overwhelming love of your Savior. This creates authentic boldness. Peter had denied Jesus just weeks earlier, yet here he stands fearlessly before those who could execute him. What changed? He encountered grace on the beach when Jesus restored him. When head knowledge meets heart transformation, courage follows. Stop waiting until you feel qualified. Your testimony of what you've seen and heard is enough.

Reflection Question: How has being with Jesus transformed me in ways that others might notice?

Day 3: The Cross Is Enough

Reading: Romans 3:21-26

Devotional: We struggle to believe the cross was sufficient. We add works, religious activities, and good behavior as insurance policies on our salvation. But this reveals we don't truly understand what happened at Calvary. When Jesus said, "It is finished," He meant it completely. Your worst sin—past, present, and future—was fully paid for. You are fully loved and fully saved in that moment. The

thief on the cross had no time for church attendance, tithing, or Bible study, yet Jesus promised him paradise based solely on faith. If you're trying to earn God's favor through your performance, you're actually diminishing the cross. This week, when you're tempted to think your good deeds balance your failures, remember: Christ's sacrifice was complete. Rest in that finished work and let gratitude, not guilt, motivate your service.

Reflection Question: In what ways am I still trying to earn what Jesus has already freely given?

Day 4: Boldness in the Face of Opposition

Reading: Acts 4:23-31

Devotional: Peter and John faced the ultimate threat—death—yet they refused to stop speaking about Jesus. Their boldness wasn't reckless; it was rooted in obedience to God rather than men. "We cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard," they declared. The gospel will always face opposition. As culture moves further from God, the church will experience greater resistance. The question isn't if we'll face opposition, but how we'll respond when we do. Will we water down the message to avoid offense? Will we remain silent to keep the peace? Or will we, like these early disciples, determine that obedience to God matters more than approval from people? The same Holy Spirit who empowered Peter empowers you today. You're called to the same boldness—not in your own strength, but in the power of the Spirit.

Reflection Question: Where have I compromised my witness to avoid potential conflict or rejection?

Day 5: From Knowing to Walking

Reading: James 2:14-26

Devotional: Faith without works is dead, but works without faith is slavery. This paradox confuses many believers. We're saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone—yet genuine faith always produces action. The key is understanding the order: we don't serve to be saved; we serve because we are saved. Peter and John didn't heal the lame man to earn God's favor; they acted from the overflow of having received grace. Your good works, generosity, and service should flow from gratitude, not guilt. When you truly grasp how deeply flawed you are and how deeply loved you are, it creates a boldness that cannot be contained. You'll invite your neighbor to church not because you're supposed to, but because you genuinely want them to experience what has transformed you. Let this week mark a shift from religious obligation to joyful obedience.

Reflection Question: Are my spiritual activities motivated by love and gratitude, or by fear and obligation?

Weekly Challenge: Identify one person this week with whom you can share what you've "seen and heard" about Jesus—not a theological argument, but your personal testimony of how Christ has changed you. Trust that the Holy Spirit will give you the words and the boldness you need.