

Energized for Mission - To Boldly Go...

Acts 4:23-33; 1 Corinthians 4:5; Ephesians 6:19-20;

The Starship Enterprise was on a mission that was not for the _____ of heart. There would be danger, uncertainty, new species, and new situations no one had ever encountered before. It would require _____. So, they enshrined it in the Star Fleet Charter, "...to boldly go where no man has gone before..."

When the Christ's Church first faced off against persecution, they immediately turned to _____. However, they didn't pray for God to protect them. They didn't pray for God to make it stop. They prayed for _____.

According to Google, **boldness** is the willingness to act or speak with _____, confidence, and fearless conviction. In Greek it literally means to speak _____, to hold _____ back. It represents a divinely empowered freedom to speak the Gospel without _____ of reprisal.

Boldness is NOT arrogance or _____, nor recklessness or _____. It is not _____ or aggression, nor stubbornness or obstinacy. Boldness is not rebellion for the sake of rebellion. It is not people pleasing, self-preservation, or _____.

So, why today do we so often pray for the _____ of opposition or _____ from its attacks while our first brothers and sisters in Christ prayed for **boldness**?

We value this _____ and all its blessings and comforts far _____ than we should.

We value the _____ of God and the _____ of Jesus far _____ than we should.

We neglect the _____ Spirit's work in our hearts, minds, and lives.

We criticize _____ and agnostics, yet we basically live the same lives: *Get all you can while you can and do what you can to keep it. Enjoy every moment you can. Give priority to things you can see and touch. Etc.*

Jesus lived as if this life is transitory and the next is _____ and most important. He taught that things we often love can't & won't love us back, nor can we _____ them. He showed us the divine and eternal love of the Father for us by entering this world, suffering and _____ in our place for the forgiveness of ALL of our sins. With a God and Savior like this, why would we worry about suffering? God always works for _____.

Jesus also _____ again from the dead. He has _____ sin, Satan, and death once for all. He is ruling and reigning at God's right hand. Kings, rulers, and persecutors plot in _____ against the Lord of heaven and earth. He will come again to _____ the living and the dead. His kingdom will have no end. With a God and Savior like this, why would we ever fear suffering and death as the _____ of our story?

If you believe in Jesus, you can only do so by the work of the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit is at work in you, he will guide and direct you. He will give you words, strength, and _____ to be about "the main thing."

How is the Holy Spirit revealing a need for more boldness in your life and witness?

What are the obstacles to boldness being revealed by the Holy Spirit?

What aspects of the life, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection of Jesus is the Holy Spirit highlighting as the antidote to timidity and fear?

What are you going to do about it?