

## GREAT BOLDNESS

This week we saw a total display of evil in our country as Charlie Kirk became a modern-day martyr

So many are saying it was a political assassination but in reality, they meant for it to be a spiritual assassination to keep the gospel from advancing in hopes of squelching revival across our land

I was shocked, overwhelmed, in disbelief, angry, broken, and deeply grieved in a way I can't really even describe

I don't care what the world thinks, but I know Charlie Kirks death was a catalyst for something much bigger. It's now time for the church to wake up!

Our culture normalizes hate and finds truth deeply offensive and is willing to kill people to silence it

What's this time look like right now?

***2 Tim 3:1-5 NKJV But know this, that in the last days <sup>[a]</sup>perilous times will come: <sup>2</sup>For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>unloving, <sup>[b]</sup>unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup>traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup>having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!***

Perilous – harsh, savage, difficult, dangerous, fierce, grievous, hard to deal with

It describes a society that is barren of virtue but abounding with vices

Paul is telling Timothy these things will begin to get worse between the first and second coming of Christ, but to continue to share the gospel even in the face of the great increase of evil. It's spiritual warfare!

There are people in our society that have become so evil they would assassinate Jesus again today, even after knowing all He has done for us!

So what are we to do church in these perilous times? Our example:

*Acts 4:23-31 NKJV And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup> So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said:*

*“Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, <sup>25</sup> who <sup>[c]</sup>by the mouth of Your servant David have said:*

*‘Why did the nations rage,  
And the people plot vain things?*

*<sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth took their stand,  
And the rulers were gathered together  
Against the Lord and against His Christ.’*

*<sup>27</sup> “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together <sup>28</sup> to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. <sup>29</sup> Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, <sup>30</sup> by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”*

*<sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.*

*v. 29 NIV Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.*

Peter and John were facing threats because the culture of hate and religion, why? For doing the work of Jesus and healing a man lame from birth

Who could hate that? The kingdom of darkness - and that's the same kingdom of darkness that came after Charlie Kirk

*Acts 4:7-12 NKJV And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, “By what power or by what name have you done this?”*

*<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: <sup>9</sup> If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless*

*man, by what means he has been made well, <sup>10</sup> let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. <sup>11</sup> This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' <sup>12</sup> Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

They wanted to silence Peter and John and the church

-just like they thought they would silence Jesus,

- just like they wanted to silence Charlie Kirk

*Acts 4:18-22 NKJV So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. <sup>20</sup> For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." <sup>21</sup> So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. <sup>22</sup> For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.*

But fear, intimidation, threats, and pure evil will never be able to prevail and silence the voice of His true church!

*Matt 16:18-19 NKJV And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not <sup>[g]</sup>prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth <sup>[h]</sup>will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

The NT church gave us an example for the very times we're living in

*Acts 4:23-28 NKJV And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup> So when they*

*heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said:  
“Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in  
them,”<sup>25</sup> who <sup>[G]</sup>by the mouth of Your servant David have said:*

*‘Why did the nations rage,  
And the people plot vain things?  
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and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered  
together <sup>28</sup> to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be  
done.*

Peter and John told their companions all that was reported to them and this week we have heard all that has been reported. Millions of grieving people and then some that rejoiced that Charlie Kirk was killed

Can you imagine that response? What are we to do with that?

*v. 24 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: “Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them,*

Spiritual unity came across the early church and they lifted their unified voice to God!

How can we do this? Only through the power of the Holy Spirit can this kind of unity be accomplished

We have to let the Holy Spirit out of the back room and back into our lives, homes, and church so we too might walk in the Spirit just like the NT church!

The body of Christ must unite and be the church He has called and ordained us to be in this last hour!

*v. 29 NIV Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.*

Right here at this point the early church needed the Lord to renew their courage so they could spread the gospel

They didn't ask for things to get easier, but instead Lord give us greater boldness and stretch out your hand and do even greater miracles, signs, and wonders!

Holy Spirit, right now, let us not walk in fear but faith. Let us not be silent about our faith and the truth of the gospel but make us bolder than ever!

Like the early church when faced with adversity, it's not time to shrink in hiding but rise up in faith with a unified voice for God to move powerfully again and even greater than before!

Lord show us your glory!!!

***v. 31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.***

Charlie Kirk is absent from this life but very much alive and present with the Lord  
I believe he would say this

***2 Tim 4:1-5 NKJV I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup> and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. <sup>5</sup> But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.***

Great boldness: outspoken, unreserved utterance, freedom to speak with clarity and candor, cheerful courage- the complete opposite of fear and intimidation

My friend, this kind of boldness is not a human quality but the result of being filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit

Just like the NT church, Lord shake us again!

Prophetic word