

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Ms. Dannels, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: [www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com](http://www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com)
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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# Boldness

By Derek Long

Boldness is a quality like some other qualities in the Bible which can be possessed both by the righteous as well as the wicked. The Bible mentions people being bold in engaging in sinful actions (Genesis 34:25) or in teaching something without possessing all the important facts (Acts 18:26). Just because a person has boldness does not guarantee they are right with God or even what they are doing is right necessarily. It might be possible to compare boldness in some respects to zeal. A person can be zealous without knowledge and not submit to God's righteousness (Romans 10:1-3). A person can also be zealous in doing those things which are right (Titus 2:14). A person can be bold in doing or teaching something which is not accurate. A person can also have boldness because they are doing and teaching what is right.

The quality of boldness might could be described as a person who is not holding back. We might think about a bold person as someone who speaks freely without being fearful or intimidated by others. We might think of someone taking bold actions when they are not held back due to fear or the risk of some sort of danger. The Bible encourages Christians to be bold in teaching the truth, approaching God, and dealing with dangerous circumstances which might arise.

Boldness is a quality we see several first century Christians displaying as they taught the truth to others. Peter and John display boldness as they replied to the Sanhedrin's questions about their healing the lame man (Acts 4:13). Following his conversion, Paul spoke boldly in Damascus about Jesus being the Christ (Acts 9:27) and continued to speak boldly while in Jerusalem for a short period of time (Acts 9:29). As Paul and Barnabas are in Iconium on Paul's first preaching trip, they spoke boldly even in the face of opposition (Acts 14:3). Paul spoke boldly in Ephesus (Acts 19:8). It was Paul's desire to speak the word of God boldly wherever and in whatever circumstance he found himself in (Ephesians 6:19-20). Paul expresses joy over brethren become "more bold to speak the word without fear" (Philippians 1:14, NKJV). A person who speaks the word of God boldly speaks God's word openly and without holding back any part of it even if some part of the word of God may seem controversial to some. People who shy away from teaching the truth because the truth is controversial are not speaking God's word boldly. People who are intimidated by threats or even persecution are not speaking the word of God with boldness. Boldness in teaching God's word is something we can grow in and become better at. Philippians 1:14 speaks about people being "more bold." If someone can become "more bold," boldness is a quality we can increase in. In Acts 4:13, the apostles Peter and John demonstrated boldness as they addressed the Sanhedrin. In Acts 4:29, they ask God to help them speak His word boldly. In Acts 4:31, they speak the word of God with boldness. Just because we were bold on one occasion does not guarantee we will be bold on another occasion. In fact, if we were bold and faced opposition or persecution for such, it might be easy to not be bold the next time opposition or persecution arises because of the truth.

Boldness is a quality we need to possess as we approach God. Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (NKJV). Boldness in approaching God clearly is not arrogance because we are to approach God humbly (1 Peter 5:6). Boldness in approaching God though involves us being willing to freely express to God what is on our mind in a humble and reverent manner (Hebrews 12:28). We need to remember our ability to approach God

does not come because of how great we are but is due to the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, who makes it possible for us to boldly (freely and confidently) approach God (Hebrews 10:19; Ephesians 3:12). Do we have boldness in approaching the throne of grace? Are we afraid to tell God what our cares are and ask Him to help us bear them (1 Peter 5:7)? Are we afraid to be honest with God about the things which are causing us to have struggles? Are we afraid to acknowledge our sins to God (1 John 1:9)? Hebrews 4 has already reminded us God is aware of everything so why would we not express ourselves freely to Him (Hebrews 4:13). Hebrews 4 has taught us Jesus knows exactly what it is like to face temptation and can sympathize with our weaknesses so why not freely acknowledge these things to Him (Hebrews 4:14-15). Perhaps at times we need to become more bold in how we approach God in prayer.

Boldness should be something which helps us anytime we are tempted to fear man instead of fearing God. Hebrews 13:6 teaches us, "So we may boldly say: 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?'" (NKJV). Are we bold because we know that God is with us and is on our side? As Joshua and the Israelites were about to enter the land of Canaan to conquer it God encouraged them not to be afraid because He would be with them (Joshua 1:5-9). Let's equally be people of courage and boldness as we serve our God!