

The Holy Spirit & Boldness: Introduction

When the Holy Spirit filled the Believers on the day of Pentecost, one of the divine abilities bestowed was boldness. It transformed these men and women from hiding in fear to becoming bold proclaimers (Acts 2).

When their proclamation attracted persecution, the disciples prayed for 'complete boldness'.¹ Their prayer was immediately granted, and they were emboldened by the Holy Spirit to confidently spread the word (Acts 4:31).

Boldness, as understood in the Biblical context, transcends mere personality traits. It involves acting with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and a profound conviction, even when confronted with danger. True boldness manifests as the courage to act or speak fearlessly, regardless of actual or perceived threats. Interestingly, even a timid introvert, when infused with the Holy Spirit, can exhibit boldness in situations where an outspoken individual might falter.

It's important to distinguish boldness from recklessness or aggression. However, boldness shares similarities with assertiveness by enabling folks to address situations effectively, despite the possibility of unfavourable outcomes.

"Have you received the boldness of the Spirit since you believed?"²



Shalom

Adewale Adefuye
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¹ Acts 4:29 'complete boldness' (BSB) 'all boldness' (KJV)

² A paraphrase of St. Paul's enquiry to the disciples in Corinth (Acts 19:1-2)

St Stephen the Bold!



Acts 7:54-60, BSB

⁵⁴ On hearing this, the members of the Sanhedrin were enraged, and they gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked intently into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears, cried out in a loud voice, and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸ They dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile the witnesses laid their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen appealed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Falling on his knees, he cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.



St Stephen was a deacon in the Church, serving tables. In today’s Church, he would be at the door, welcoming attendees to the Sunday or midweek service. She would be a member of the Hospitality department serving tea, coffee, and biscuits before or after the service. He might even be manning the camera or the audio-visual desk.

Wherever (s)he served, he would be full of the Holy Spirit.

God has provided for everyone in Christ to be full of the Holy Spirit. Are you? If not, why not?

It is not exclusive to only pastors and ministers.

- a. What effect did the Holy Spirit make in the life of St Stephen?
- b. Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?
- c. Have you received the boldness that the Holy Spirit offers?



Make this a subject of your conversation with God.