

# KINGDOM ADVANCING PRAYER

Mark: 1:35 & Matt: 11: 11-12

*From the desk of Elder Michael Scantlebury*

## Boldness A Vital Key in Kingdom Advance!

There is such a tremendous sense of a “Divine Momentum” from the Lord as we continue building what the Lord has called us to here at DLI and in the nations of the earth. There are many vital keys in any sustainable Kingdom advance, and over the next few weeks we will be looking at several of them. They will include today’s topic, Boldness, along with: Hunger, Perseverance, Intense Desire, and “The Fear of Man?”

### **BOLDNESS**

This word is derived from the Greek word “parresia” and means "confidence," "fearlessness," "freedom of speech".

Boldness was, and still should be, one of the results of true discipleship as is shown in the following scriptural texts:

“Now when **they saw the boldness of Peter and John**, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marvelled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with **all boldness they may speak Your word**, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” 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.**” Acts 4:13, 29 – 31

“To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, **in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.**” Ephesians 3:8-12

“For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but **with all boldness, as always**, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” Philippians 1:19-21

“For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and **great boldness in the faith** which is in Christ Jesus.” 1Timothy 3:13

“Love has been perfected among us in this: **that we may have boldness** in the day of judgment; **because as He is, so are we in this world.**” 1 John 4:17

It was a necessary qualification for the work assigned to the early apostles and the early Church. They were not only subject to violent persecutions, but were also a constant subject of ridicule and contempt.

As we continue our press, in taking the nations for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we need to have this mindset, as we will undoubtedly face some of these same situations, as did our earlier brothers. With the restoration of apostles, greater confrontation with the demonic world will arise, and we need to be bold in finishing the assignment Jesus gave us in Matthew 28: 18-20

This is the same word used by the apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 3:12 & Hebrews 10:19 when describing the strength of the New Covenant and how we are to function under it.

As we read through the book of Acts, we see several incidents about which the early apostles and saints had to pray, and used boldness in proclamation of the gospel of the Kingdom. In Acts 2 the Holy Spirit arrives and endues the apostles and saints with power, which resulted in Peter rising up and boldly proclaiming the Christ. Miracles, signs and wonders were done, which invoked the wrath of the devil, who moved upon the officials to condemn the activities of the apostles. In Acts 4:29-31, they asked the Lord for more **boldness** and received it, and continued proclaiming a strong Jesus with all boldness and confidence.

This boldness resulted in some persecution, but that did not stop the early apostles and it must not stop us. Other examples of persecution arising because of the bold, aggressive preaching of the Gospel, include:

Acts 5: 22-32      Acts 6: 8-15      Acts 7: 54-60      Acts 12: 1-4      Acts 14: 19-20  
Acts 16: 16-24      Acts 17: 5-9      Acts 21: 26-36      Acts 23: 11-12

Another point to note as we read through the early account of the life of the apostles as they moved in boldness in the book of Acts, is that **miracles, healing, signs and wonders** were accomplished. As demonic kingdoms that caused opposition to the church were shattered, the Lord released the grace for them to perform these **miracles, healing, signs and wonders! Hallelujah! Glory to God!**

### **Examples of miracles, healing, signs and wonders through the boldness of the apostles**

Acts 3:1-9 (Persecution arose because of this: Acts 4: 1-3. Again, boldness was employed in their release: verse 13)

Acts 4: 29-31 (Arising out of this we see the incredible sign of both Ananias and Sapphira being killed in Acts 5, also in verses 12-16 we see tremendous miracles taking place.)

Acts 5:17-20      Acts 12      Acts 13      Acts 14: 1-10      Acts 16: 16-34      Acts 19: 8-20

This boldness must be rooted and grounded in our “knowing” (not merely knowing about) the Lord Jesus Christ. The Word of God declares in Daniel 11:32b “but the people that **do know** their God shall be strong (or bold), and do exploits.”

Let me boldly declare to you that as the Lord continues restoring His apostles, we will see a greater dimension of boldness returning to the church, which will result in “the greater works ministry” being released through the saints. Let’s continue boldly declaring the gospel of the kingdom, which must be preached in all the earth before the end can come. Let us maintain a high level of expectancy and a consistent, righteous lifestyle that can help fuel this “Divine Momentum” that the Lord is giving us!