



# BOLDNESS FOR THE HARVEST

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Sharing the gospel with someone can be very intimidating for many Christians. Fear of rejection, feelings of inadequacy for the task and various other inhibitions keep believers from the work of evangelism. The great challenge, of course, is that there can be no gospel harvest without gospel proclamation. If Christians don't share the good news, unbelievers can't hear it. Some see evangelism as the domain of professional ministers or a select group of super-spiritual Christians. The reality is that evangelism is the job of every Christian, not just some. The task is simply too great and the need too immense for just a small portion of the church to engage in the work of evangelism. If we are to reach the world with the gospel, we must all do our part. To do that, many of us will have to overcome our fears and inhibitions.

Believers in the early church in Jerusalem give us a great model for doing this. In this passage, Peter and John have been arrested and mistreated for preaching the gospel. They are released, but threatened to speak no more about Jesus. They return to the other believers and enter into a time of worship and prayer. The interesting thing is that they don't pray protection or deliverance from the threats and persecution. They instead pray for boldness to speak God's Word. They do not want to relent one bit in proclaiming the good news of salvation in Jesus. But they also seem to recognize their own human tendencies toward weakness and fear. So they ask God to make them even bolder than they have been up until that point. This should be our prayer as well.

In a culture that is increasingly secular and hostile toward Christianity, it is easy to tremble and hide. Not proclaiming the gospel message is much easier than proclaiming it. But the harvest is at

stake. People's eternal future is at stake. We must not allow our fears to keep us from telling others about Jesus and his coming kingdom. Let us be like the early church. Let us pray that God will grant us all boldness that we might proclaim the gospel without ceasing as well.

**AS YOU PRAY THIS WEEK:**

- Pray for boldness to proclaim the gospel when you have the opportunity.
- Pray for strength to overcome any fear you have of sharing the gospel.
- Pray for our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world who live in places that persecute Christians.
- Pray your boldness and the boldness of your church will result in a great harvest for the kingdom of God.

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