



# CELL GUIDE 2016

Theme	Be Bold and Courageous
Topic	The Early Disciples
Speaker	Ps Ng Hua Ken
Date	19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2016

## Message Summary

**Spiritual Objective: To be bold and Spirit-empowered witnesses for Christ**

This month's theme talks about God's desire for His people to be bold and courageous (Joshua 1:7-9). What can we learn from the early disciples about being bold and courageous disciples of Christ? How did they fare in the area of boldness and courage?

### **Fear is Common to Every Disciple**

It may come as a surprise for us to find out that the early disciples and the apostles were actually no different from us. Before the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the disciples were timid and fearful. None of them were with Jesus during the crucifixion and the events preceding that. Even one of His closest disciples, Peter, denied Him three times. John 20:19 tells us that after Jesus' crucifixion, the disciples were hiding because they feared the Jews. Although fear is common to every disciple, if it is not dealt with, it may have serious repercussions to our spiritual growth and to our role as witnesses of Christ to advance the Kingdom of God.

### **Boldness Comes from the Holy Spirit**

However, everything changed after the Holy Spirit came upon them. Three thousand people accepted Christ on the day of Pentecost through the preaching of Peter who was filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-41). Acts 4:1-21 gave an account on how Peter and John were able to perform miracles and were able to speak up to defend themselves from the accusations of the religious leaders. They were astonished that the disciples, known to be just ordinary, uneducated people, were able to do so courageously. The Holy Spirit is the source of all power. The infilling of the Holy Spirit in the disciples' lives gave them courage.

The next question that one may ask is how one can experience the boldness that comes from the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Taking reference from the early disciples, the power of God came upon them after days of praying and waiting upon the Lord in the upper room. Have we been taking time to wait upon the Lord and pray? Are our hearts postured to seek and receive the empowerment from the Holy Spirit?

### **Opposition is an Opportunity for the Advancement of the Kingdom of God**

Continuing the account in Acts 4, Peter and John shared their encounter with the religious leaders to the other believers upon their release. Their sharing encouraged and spurred the rest



# CELL GUIDE 2016

to press on to preach the Word. They prayed and the Holy Spirit came to empower them to be bold. United, one-heart-one-mind prayer brings down the power of God from heaven.

The opposition that the disciples encountered did not stop them from continuing to preach the Gospel. Instead, they prayed for more boldness to speak forth the Truth. Acts 8:4 also states that the great persecution against the church in Jerusalem caused many to be scattered throughout the regions and they preached the Word wherever they went. Do challenges or opposition in our discipleship journeys cause us to embrace fear instead of praying for boldness?

## Conclusion

When the disciples of Jesus pray, the Holy Spirit empowers them to be bold witnesses.

## Questions

1) Were the early disciples ever timid and fearful? What changed which caused them to become bold?

(Fill In Answer Here)

2) How has your life been transformed by the Holy Spirit? What is one thing you used to be scared of, or perhaps never done before, but you now do in the life of the Holy Spirit?

(Fill In Answer Here)

3) What are some fears that most believers, including yourself experiencing in witnessing? What is one thing that you can do today to start addressing that particular fear?

(Fill In Answer Here)