



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	The Bold Church	SPEAKER	DSP Edric Sng
THEME	A Lifestyle of Evangelism	DATE	19 & 20 February 2022

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In the third sermon of this series, DSP Edric draws lessons from the Book of Acts Chapter 4 to encourage us to be bold in sharing our faith. Despite persecution, Peter and John were filled with the Spirit and boldly shared their testimonies, and many people were led to salvation.

THE BOLD CHURCH

1) Bold Faith – The Conviction of the Spirit

Peter and John were put on trial as they preached the gospel in Acts 4:1. Despite the potential consequences, the disciples boldly proclaimed that they preached in the name of Jesus whom the Jewish leaders and priests had rejected and crucified. Jesus is the cornerstone of their faith and the only way to salvation (Acts 4:11-12). The disciples were bold in their faith because they were filled with the Holy Spirit and with the knowledge of Jesus as the resurrected King.

Similarly, we are often put in situations where our faith is questioned or are given an opportunity to share the gospel. We too can learn to draw on our own sources of bold faith to help lead others to God. Bold faith is the product of our Pentecost experience (encounter with the Spirit) and personal experience (revelation of the truth about Jesus).

2) Personal Faith – The Consequence of Salvation

When everyone saw the transformation of Peter and John, two illiterate and uneducated men, there was nothing they could say against what they proclaimed (Acts 4:13) nor could they deny the works of miracle. The Jewish leaders tried to stop them from sharing the Gospel further but Peter and John declared that they would do what is right in the sight of God and they could not help but declare what they have seen and heard (Acts 4:19-20). The Jewish leaders eventually released them, finding no way to punish them.

Like Peter and John, we do not need to be educated to be an evangelist. We only need to know who Jesus is and be prepared to share our personal stories of transformation. Personal faith is when our personal experience of Jesus is so real and powerful that we cannot help but proclaim Jesus.

3) Spirit-Filled Faith – Confirmed with Signs and Wonders

Peter and John reported what had happened at the trial to the people, and everyone worshiped the Lord. They prayed for great boldness to continue to preach the Gospel even amidst the threats they were facing (Acts 4:23-29). They were united in prayer and purpose and were filled with the Spirit. They continued to testify to the resurrection of Jesus with one heart and mind and the power of God's grace was with them (Acts 4:31-33).

There is much that we can learn from the early church. A Spirit-filled church is unshaken amid persecution and unstoppable in the proclamation of the Gospel.

CONCLUSION

Peter and John led many to Jesus because of their bold faith. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and were transformed by their personal experiences of salvation. No one could deny what they proclaimed for they saw their transformation and the works of miracles performed.

It is time for a new season of a bold church in these chaotic end times. Time is running out and there are many in our midst who do not know Jesus yet. We are all put into various communities and situations when we can help lead others to Jesus. Just like Peter and John, we do not need to be educated; all we need is bold faith to trust in who God is and be ready to share our personal stories of salvation.

QUESTIONS

1. Think about a time in your life when your faith was questioned. How did you respond?

2. What is your personal testimony on how God has touched your life? Who is God impressing upon you to share this testimony to?

3. What steps can we take to lead a life with Spirit-filled faith? Think of how you can incorporate God into your daily living in order to be filled by the Spirit constantly, so that the love of God may overflow to those around you.