

## Be Bold! : Foundations for Sanctified Risk-Taking

### Intro

- Boldness is not simply a personality trait. It is a characteristic to be cultivated by those who know and walk with God.
- It stands in contrast to timidity, the fear of man, and, its arch enemy, unbelief.

### The Birth & Growth of Boldness in Acts

#### Boldness demonstrated: gospel traction in Acts 1-3

##### Acts 1

- First words from disciples are not all that promising.  
vs 6 - “Are we there yet?”
- Back to Jerusalem, waiting for the promised Holy Spirit

##### Acts 2

- Rushing wind, Spirit falls, crowds drawn, Peter preaches, great response

##### Acts 3

- Peter/John heal lame man at Gate Beautiful, Peter preaches, great response.

#### Boldness challenged: gospel opposition in Acts 4

- Peter/John proclaiming Christ, rulers arrest them, making threats, charging them to stop preaching

**Acts 4:8-13**

**Acts 4:19-31**

- You might say that one of the first characteristics associated with the coming of the

Spirit was a \_\_\_\_\_ .

## Foundations for Sanctified Risk-Taking

### 1. Boldness grows where God is big and people are small

Acts 4:23-24

- The first thing the believers did when confronted with the threats of rulers was to contrast their [the rulers'] status with God's.

Psalm 2:1-4

- God at many points in Scripture settles the hearts of his fearful people and bolsters their courage by letting them feel how utterly unintimidated He is by their enemies.

Acts 4:18-19, 29-31 (also 5:29)

- Psalm 2 didn't just reassure them that God was bigger than their adversaries. It assured them that their mission was unstoppable.

### 2. Boldness grows where God's care for *me* is a truth deeply and personally felt.

- If all we have at the end of the day is an omnipotent God whose purposes can't be stopped, we are still exposed to the elements of fear and unbelief.

Acts 4:29-30

- “Sovereignty”, by itself, leaves me exposed to fear because I still have room to wonder whether that great powerful deity is for me or against me. I can't venture out in boldness and risk-taking adventure in the gospel (Acts 4) or in everyday relationships, and marriage, and family, and work, because it may yet become clear that God stands opposed to my success.

***How does this revelation of God's care and personal love relate to boldness and a life of risk-taking-adventure for the gospel and in our everyday lives?***

Gal 2.20

- Assurance of God's grace is a primary means of en-**courage**-ment as we live our lives, as we go about and pursue relationships, and walk out family life, and do our 9 to 5.

## **Applying Truth to Fear**

- What personal circumstance or relationship most tempts you to unbelief?
- What situation or prospect in life causes you the most distress and anxiety?

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### **► Future Men – teach your boys *this***

1.

2.

- These truths undergird all kinds of practical exhortations to boldness for his boys:
  - Don't cuddle worry and anxiety. Attack it.
  - Don't live in 'safety mode'. Live by faith in future grace.
  - Don't be introverted or insecure.
  - Don't be afraid of bullies. Protect your little sister.
  - Do and try hard things.

## So What?

-What area awaits faith, boldness and venturing out?

-Begin by assessing roles



Daniel 11.32 “The people that know their God will be strong and do exploits.”

- What exploits await you?
- Do you lack an appreciation of the contrast between \_\_\_\_\_ and the people or things that you \_\_\_\_\_ ?

**“This is very different from heroism and self-reliance. When we risk losing face or money or life because we believe God will always help us and use our loss, in the end, to make us more glad in his glory, then it’s not we who get the praise because of our courage; it’s God who gets the praise because of his care. In this way risk reflects God’s value, not our valor.”**

-John Piper, Don’t Waste Your Life, p.90