

## **Boldness**

*And for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that in it I may speak boldly as I ought to speak.—Ephesians 6:19-20*

When I think of individuals who are bold to speak for Christ, I think of the Apostle Paul. So I was a little surprised when I thought about these verses. Paul was in prison and asking his friends to pray for him. He was not asking to be released from jail, for good health, or better conditions. He accepted that he was in chains for a reason, to be an ambassador for Christ. If he was to fulfil that mission, he needed boldness.

I looked up the definition of boldness and found two relevant definitions. The first indicates that the bold person takes risks; is confident and courageous. The second definition tells that the bold individual is not hesitant and fearful in the face of possible danger or negative outcomes.

So, why are we not bold in our witness for Jesus Christ? Do we feel the risk is too great? Do we love the praise of men more than the praise of God? Do we lack confidence? Or, are we just fearful about what others may think? Whatever the reason or excuse, we need to pray for boldness. Fear is a natural human response but confidence comes from Christ.

We will talk about our favorite teams and not worry about people who don't agree. We get excited to talk about our children and grandchildren because we love them and are proud of them. How much more important to get excited about the one who loved us so much that He died for us. We have the opportunity to glorify the Lord as we share what Christ has done and what He can do for others.