



# Boldness

*For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.*

– 2 Timothy 1:6-7

Last year, I attended the International Conference On Missions (ICOM) in Oklahoma City. It was a great time and an incredible experience. Missionaries from all over the world attended and I heard great messages about Jesus being “The Hope for the Nations”. One of the sermons I heard was by Jayson French, president of Christ In Youth (CIY). It was very challenging.

At one point in the message he said, “Did Jesus give the Church a spirit of timidity?” No response. “I said, did Jesus give the Church a spirit of timidity?” A loud, “No!” Then Jayson followed up with, “Then where did it come from?!” Ouch. That hurt. I hated that he said that. But I couldn’t argue with it.

Now please understand that many of our brothers and sisters think that the opposite of being timid is being bullies. That, also, is not the spirit Jesus gave us. It’s true that it takes boldness to stand on our church porches and tell the world how sinful they are. But that is not the boldness we see with Jesus and His ministry. His was a boldness that brought invitation. Not just to church but to life as it was meant to be. It was a boldness that pointed people to God, and salvation found only in Jesus.

Many people in Jesus’ day didn’t like His message. Not because it wasn’t right but because it was to a personal God who was spirit. It didn’t matter if they went to worship in Jerusalem or Mount Gerizim. Yahweh was redeeming His people through His one and only Son. Jesus only. That meant that the religious leaders lost the authority they thought they had over God’s house. In a nutshell, it wasn’t about them anymore. And that is why Jesus’ message was bold. Even if the Temple leaders disagreed, Jesus had real authority to bring people to His Father.

And I believe that’s the boldness we need today. Not the boldness that tries to make us more control of...whatever. Not the boldness that leads people to us instead of God. They know what we stand against, but not Who we stand for. The world needs to hear from the church the boldness that declares Jesus is the Messiah. That Jesus died for the sins of the world. That Jesus rose again and is sitting at the right hand of God making intercession for them and us with the Father. In Him is our ONLY hope.

That’s the boldness that destroys a spirit of timidity. It didn’t come from Jesus anyway!

From My Heart,

*Billy*