

BOLD AS A LION

Part 6

2 Peter 1:4 KJV

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2 Peter 1:4 AMPC

4 By means of these He has bestowed on us His precious and exceedingly great promises, so that through them you may escape [by flight] from the moral decay (rottenness and corruption) that is in the world because of covetousness (lust and greed), and become sharers (partakers) of the divine nature.

2 Peter 1:4 GNT

4 In this way he has given us the very great and precious gifts he promised, so that by means of these gifts you may escape from the destructive lust that is in the world, and may come to share the divine nature.

In part 5 we were talking about our divine nature and in the last few pages of the notes I finished with talking about kicking people out of your boat or you getting out. I didn't say you can't talk to anybody, I said what is your purpose to being with them. Is it so you can influence them to be more like Christ? if not, you're going to become like them and you're wasting your time.

Don't hang around those (close associations) who aren't good for you. There is no middle road, you're not just associating, you are becoming - you are becoming like them or they are becoming like you. So if they haven't changed then you must have changed.

1 Corinthians 5:9-13 AMPC

9 I wrote you in my [previous] letter not to associate **[closely and habitually]** with unchaste (impure) people—

10 Not **[meaning of course that you must]** altogether shun the immoral people of this world, or the greedy graspers and cheats and thieves or idolaters, since otherwise you would need to get out of the world and human society altogether!

11 But now I write to you **not to associate** with anyone who bears the name of [Christian] brother if he is known to be guilty of immorality or greed, or is an idolater [whose soul is devoted to any object that usurps the place of God], or is a person with a foul tongue [railing, abusing, reviling, slandering], or is a drunkard or a swindler or a robber. [No] you must not so much as eat with such a person.

12 What [business] of mine is it and what right have I to judge outsiders? **Is it not those inside [the church] upon whom you are to pass disciplinary judgment [passing censuring sentence on them as the facts require]?**

13 God alone sits in judgment on those who are outside. Drive out that wicked one from among you [expel him from your church].

1 Peter 2:16 GNT

16 Live as free people; do not, however, use your freedom to cover up any evil, but live as God's slaves.

1 Peter 2:16 AMPC

16 [Live] as free people, [yet] without employing your freedom as a pretext for wickedness; but [live at all times] as servants of God.

Don't let anyone tell you or impress upon you what you should or shouldn't do if it's contrary to The Word or in those "grey areas" (there are no grey areas...you need to ask the Holy Spirit what's right or wrong). Once you do, you are falling under the devils control through manipulation.

The devil will make you think “you can only go this far with your holiness and righteousness, if you go further you won’t have any friends, no one will like you.” That’s the devil’s way of confusing you and putting a value on you, your value is put on you by God.

We as a society have devalued others and ourselves and that’s why people can’t help other people up, because they are down themselves. How are they going to help someone up when they are down? All they do is look for something to criticize and talk about so you stay even with them.

That’s how poor people talk (remember what poor means?) – those who don’t know God. Those who are rich in the ways of the God are too busy doing what God told them to do to notice what you do and don’t have.

People just like to sit there and evaluate, mall watching. Kellie and I used to sit there and just watch people... fascinating isn’t it? Some of you are probably evaluating me right now– don’t like my sport coat, my shoes or hair.

Psalms 82:1-6 KJV

1 God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods.

2 How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah.

3 Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.

4 Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked.

5 They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness : so all the foundations of the earth are out of course.

6 I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.

Let’s read the Amplified version as well on page 4...

Psalm 82:1-6 AMPC

1 God stands in the assembly [of the representatives] of God; in the midst of the magistrates or judges He gives judgment [as] among the gods.

2 How long will you [magistrates or judges] judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]!

3 Do justice to the weak (poor) and fatherless; maintain the rights of the afflicted and needy.

4 Deliver the poor and needy; rescue them out of the hand of the wicked.

5 [The magistrates and judges] know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in the darkness [of complacent satisfaction]; all the foundations of the earth [the fundamental principles upon which rests the administration of justice] are shaking.

6 I said, You are gods [since you judge on My behalf, as My representatives]; indeed, all of you are children of the Most High.

Now lets look at verse 6... ***“I have said ye are gods”*** – (that’s lower case g and that word pertains to rulers). We are rulers under God and we will never be God almighty **but you can rule over the situation and circumstances of this earth. Thermostats or thermometers?**

This scripture is what you need to understand, because this scripture begins to tell us what our responsibilities are here on this earth and the Promises in God’s Word.

Joshua 1:3 AMPC

3 Every place upon which the sole of your foot shall tread, that have I given to you, as I promised Moses.

Deuteronomy 11:24 AMPC

24 Every place upon which the sole of your foot shall tread shall be yours:

Joshua 14:9 AMPC

*9 And Moses swore on that day, Surely the land on which your feet have walked shall be an inheritance to you and your children always, **because you have wholly followed the Lord my God.***

When you go out into the dark places and I'm not talking about going out at night in the darkness. I'm talking about the darkness of the world where people don't have Christ we have to remember God's Word and His Promises. From your home, where you hang out with friends...

You and I are sent to those places where the Bible calls "the principles of darkness" are at work. In those places where you are sent to go these are just some to the things that are in operation: selfishness, fear, manipulation, division, revenge, greed etc.

But, you were sent there with superior principles and you were sent there to bring God's Love (God's commands and Kingdom culture), you were sent there to bring peace, you were sent there to bring mercy and goodness. You were also sent there to bring justice, holiness, faith, truth, integrity. The darkness or culture absent of God needs to see you doing things with integrity that will catch their attention.

This is what the "new you", the "new mind" is suppose to do but the "old you", the "old mind" says you got to play the game just like the World - sin culture or nature. That culture thinks, "How am I going to keep up or get a ahead if I don't play by their rules." But once we get the new mind we are suppose to have a superior attitude. What I'm saying is, if you have the new spirit in you, then we have to program "freedom" in our mind because Paul told us in Romans 8

Romans 8:1 AMPC

*8 Therefore, [there is] now no condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) for those who are in Christ Jesus, **who live [and] walk not after the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit.***

Romans 8:1 KJV

*8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, **who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.***

In order for you and I to be able to live (act, think, speak) like God wants us to, we are going to have to be free from sin (habitual sin/iniquity) and guilt. When you have condemnation, and a feeling of inferiority, and unrighteousness and guilt and shame in your life, faith can't flow.

When I was younger and I wasn't always a "good" boy but I needed to ask something of my father a favor/a request for something – it was very difficult to ask him, uncomfortable and several times I talked myself out of it. I knew that I didn't live up to his commands, his rules, I wasn't obedient so I didn't ask confidently if not at all.

But when I did everything that he had asked me to – mow the lawn, loving to my mom and not sarcastic, clean my room, attentive to the ways of God – I knew I could ask something and unless it was something that I couldn't see as a danger or possible problem I would be allowed to do it.

That's what your walk with Christ is like, because when you are free and have no sense of guilt or condemnation or inferiority, faith can grow to miracle working power.

This is because we are now in touch with the fullness of God - God and I are back to one again. Jesus came to get that back for us. So, we are suppose to go into those environments and we are suppose to display the Kingdom of God. You and I were created to recover the earth and save those who are lost back to Jesus.

God never intended for the church to interact with society without changing it. But until the children of God begin to act like His representatives (royalty) on this earth – nothing will change and people and the places that they go will remain the same.

It is our job to be the agent of change but in order to do that we need to change first. We need to get our minds renewed to who God says we are. Once that mind is renewed you will begin to walk and talk like Jesus.

Peter got out of the boat and walked just like Jesus. But then the scripture says Peter took his eyes off of Jesus (the Word) to look at the distractions being caused by the wind and the next thing you know it – he began to sink. So he called out to Jesus – Jesus save me and Jesus saved him.

All of us have those things that distract us in our daily lives. Kids, spouse, work, money, and then the old mind kicks in: greed, lust, old habits that have never been killed etc. Then when we finally come to our senses and we cry out to God to save us - HE WILL!

God doesn't want us to continually go through that cycle. I'm telling you this because God intends for us to walk in the power that Adam was originally given. We are here, to be in the world but we need to separate from it – meaning that you are going to be in it and not of it.

1 Peter 2:11-12 AMPC

11 Beloved, I implore you as aliens and strangers and exiles [in this world] to abstain from the sensual urges (the evil desires, the passions of the flesh, your lower nature) that wage war against the soul.

12 Conduct yourselves properly (honorably, righteously) among the Gentiles (without God), so that, although they may slander you as evildoers, [yet] they may by witnessing your good deeds [come to] glorify God in the day of inspection [when God shall look upon you wanderers as a pastor or shepherd looks over his flock].

We are here to bring something, the light, His light in us so other's may see we are changed. Still a work in progress, but we are continually changing to be more like Christ. Remember ***Proverbs 28:1 the righteous are bold as a what? lion.*** When you start having God's nature take control of you – you become very bold. How bold?

Job 22:28 KJV

28 Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.

You have to know who you are, you are a child of God and you represent His Kingdom. You are an ambassador of God almighty and when you go to a nation or where ever you need to go as an ambassador wherever you go the laws from the nation that sent you becomes the laws where you are at. All the laws of that embassy are now the laws of where you came from and not from the country where it's at.

That's why an ambassador has immunity when he or she is traveling. What's that called? **Diplomatic immunity.**

I'm telling you that you have diplomatic immunity on this earth But if your mind isn't programmed to this new nature, you're not bold as a lion, and that's the first thing that happens when you don't renew your mind is that the boldness isn't there.

You're not sure if you're going to get in trouble or get hurt or if you're going to die. We need to get over death, to be absent from the body is to be present with God. You need to stand up and declare the Word of God and stop being afraid of losing a friend, losing your job, dying, getting into trouble for standing up for what is right. Being worried about those things, money, our needs and death is for people who don't know God and you know God.

Let me tell you something, the devil is a bully and the people he sends are bullies but God will put the fear of you on them – it's in His Word - His Promises.

Deuteronomy 11:25 KJV

25 There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the Lord your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you.

If you act bold then God can act bold thru you. HE can put the fear of you on them because He is doing the work...Jesus said so.

Ecclesiastes 8:4 KJV

*4 Where the word of a king is, **there is Power.***

You don't have to walk around looking for trouble and people running away from you saying those Christians are just looking for a fight. No, no, no, I'm just a mild manner guy – ask Kellie. I don't want no trouble but if there's something wrong I'm going to go into my phone booth and come out a whole different man.

As we have been studying 2 Peter 1 and righteousness the last several weeks, this was designed to empower you through the knowledge of Him and who you are in Christ, to take you up a notch and not be afraid. The devil is trying to take people out and change the way things are done because we aren't saying anything or doing anything.

But we are going to start saying and doing something about it amen? The Bible says in James 5...

James 5:16 AMPC

16 ...The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].

1 Samuel 30:8 AMPC

8 And David inquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them? The Lord answered him, Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all.

Hebrews 11:30 GNT

30 It was faith that made the walls of Jericho fall down after the Israelites had marched around them for seven days.

You coming here tonight was not a coincidence, there are not coincidences with God. God knows the future He doesn't need coincidences HE has plans.

Jeremiah 29:11 AMPC

11 For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.

You won't know His plan until you come to the one with the plan. There are things that we have been doing in our lives that are very unfulfilling – we are just trying to make a little money – I know, I was there. “Hey how's your job?” – “they paying you well?” – Oh yeah I'm making a living. That's not God's plan – that's very limiting. That is small thinking...

The richest places on this earth aren't the oil fields of Kuwait or the diamond minds of Africa. The richest place is a graveyard –it's where dreams have been buried - because people didn't fulfill them. Why? They never came back to God; They never knew what their purpose was on this earth.

That's a tragedy. But you and I don't have to end up that way. God knows the potential that you have even before the foundations of this earth were formed. God will help you maximize your potential, stop toiling for a living, stop spinning your wheels trying something other than what God wants you to do.

When you are in God's plan for your life, you will be blessed and not only you, but those around you. When you turn your life over to Christ you are free, free from guilt and shame – a right standing with God and your countenance will change, how you act will change, how you see things will change –you will see them for what they really are, as God sees them. It takes time and effort to grow just like anything else, but God desires for us to be close to HIM.

Pray for boldness, a boldness to do what is right in all situations even when it might hurt you in the short term and make you feel uncomfortable. But you can stand before God without guilt or shame or condemnation and come boldly before the throne of grace, why – because you belong there.

Proverbs 28:1 KJV

28 The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

Proverbs 28:1 AMPC

28 The wicked flee when no man pursues them, but the [uncompromisingly] righteous are bold as a lion.

Ecclesiastes 8:4 KJV

*4 Where the word of a king is, **there is Power.***

Micah 4:9 AMPC

9 Now why do you cry aloud? Is there no king among you? Has your counselor perished, that pains have taken you like a woman in labor?

