

Prayer, the Holy Spirit and Boldness and David Platt

by Francis Chan

Francis Chan and David Platt emphasize the importance of prayer and the Holy Spirit's empowerment in gaining the courage and boldness needed to share the gospel effectively.

Duration: 7:02

Scripture: Matthew 18:19-20, Acts 4:31, Romans 15:30, Ephesians 6:19, Colossians 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, 2 Timothy 1:7, Hebrews 10:24-25, James 5:16, 1 Peter 4:8-10

Topics: "Holy Spirit", "Bold Evangelism"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of believers coming together in prayer to seek supernatural courage and boldness to share the gospel, drawing inspiration from the early church's practice of praying for one another's boldness. It highlights the need for believers to support and pray for each other's spiritual growth, encouraging a deeper reliance on the Holy Spirit for empowerment in evangelism and disciple-making.

Transcript

You and I wrestle with this. I don't think we're alone in wrestling with this. I think this is, yeah, pretty commonplace.

So how do we, how do we get out of this? Like, how do we, how do we really, as disciples of Jesus, wow, make disciples of Jesus, like, share the gospel? See, I don't, I don't want to be too simplistic, but I really believe it's going to be a supernatural thing as people gather together and pray for that courage. Like, what I see in Scripture is, and this is what has given me more of a peace about it, because at first I'm like, what is wrong with me? Like, I shouldn't be afraid. But then, I don't know, last couple years the Lord's shown me, like, how, you know, Peter and John, how people were astonished by, you know, their boldness.

But then you see later on in that chapter how the believers were gathered together with them and praying for their courage. And I go, well, we don't really do that. I see the Apostle Paul even saying, pray for me that I may speak, you know, preach this boldly like I should.

And so, Paul is asking the church, pray for me. And I don't think we really do that. And again, I mean, I believe this is going to be, you know, like if you and I, I don't have this discussion very often with people and admit that and then have them admit it to me.

And then, you know, a lot of times it just ends right there because we don't believe prayer enough that I really believe something supernaturally would happen if we started praying for each other's boldness and courage. Like, it would just, it's a fruit of the Spirit. It's not something we're trying to, I don't want to be the cheerleader that's like, come on, you can do it, you can do it.

It's like, let's pray about this. Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit. I mean, Paul had to tell Timothy, come on, this isn't the Spirit that was given you.

You're given one that has a courage, that has a power, that has a love, has a self-control. You know, like when you were saying, well, maybe I don't love that person enough. Maybe you don't.

See, most people would say, oh no, David, you know, and just like, oh, Francis, come on, of course you love people. No, it's like, no, I don't think I love them like I should and pray for that. And I think Christians are too quick to just try to comfort rather than saying, yeah, maybe you don't love enough.

Let's pray about that. Or maybe you're not bold enough. Let's pray for that.

See, and that's it because we are quick to comfort. We just kind of go back into coasting and nothing changes. And we just continue in that.

And you're not helping that person when you do that. I mean, it's like a fake comfort, like, okay, thanks. But you know what you read in Scripture.

You see the way the people were in Scripture. And so the only comfort is, let me pray for you and let me encourage you to change that, to repent. And then once you do, then the peace comes.

It's like, I mean, the peace, when I do share, you know, my faith, it's like, oh, I feel so much better now, you know, way more than someone patting me on the back, oh, no, you're okay. It's, I'm actually doing, it's like, oh, this is it. This is good.

You get to experience God. I was about to say then, I think the other day, it was a Sikh man that I was talking with at a coffee shop. And man, as we got, we started talking about the gospel and just had this wonderful gospel conversation.

And yes, you experience the power of the Holy Spirit. Like, it's supernatural in a otherworldly kind of way. And then it's like, yes, why don't I do this more often? Yeah, and then you go home and you're all happy.

It's like, hey, you're grabbing the kids. Yeah, that's where the peace is. Well, and that's key.

Even when we think about, I don't know, like gathering or material, like apart from just a real desperation for the Spirit of God and a focus on prayer. It's not that we don't have, we have tons of resources for how to share the gospel in the church today. We've got tons of, I mean, it's not like we're the only people talking about disciple making.

I mean, we're all talking about it, but are we doing it? And really, oh, we need the Spirit of God to empower us, embolden us, and we need to call out for Him to do that. And we need a supernatural awakening in

that sense. Yeah, and I'm trying to think how many times in my whole Christian life, you know, 30 years now, how many times have I had other believers pray for my courage, my boldness to go out and share with other people? Up until this last year, I think I could count on one hand.

And then we wonder, why am I so insecure? Why am I so afraid? Well, do I really believe in prayer and gathering believers together to pray over me, that that's actually going to change something? And so right now in San Francisco, I mean, you are gathering together with the guys every single morning to do exactly that. And then you're going out and sharing the gospel door to door. Yeah, it's been awesome because just to have like-minded people in the room and to encourage one another, come on, let's do this, let's do this.

Don't get afraid. Don't, okay, I know this happened and to share our discouragements from the day before, pray, worship. My God, no, we're going to do this.

Give us new, you know, remind me. I need to be reminded to love. I need to be reminded to be bold.

I got to be reminded of who I am. I got to be reminded that I'm forgiven, you know? And so I even say, guys, like the other morning, just read some verses to me about the cross. I just need to know that I'm really forgiven.

Okay, good, good, good. Because I don't want to walk out like this, okay, let me earn my forgiveness somehow. You know, we just need people to do that.

But as we pray for each other in the boldness area, I do see it. I see it happen. There's just days where it's like, let's talk to anyone.

And that's not normal for me. I can't muster that up.

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