



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE  
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

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# THE CURE FOR COWARDICE

*A Study in Spiritual Boldness*

A Two Part Series



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## SESSION ONE

# THE GOSPEL OF THE FEARLESS

## What Exactly is Boldness?

### Parrhesia - G3954 (utilized 31 times)

Bold, Boldness, Boldly

pas, "all," + rhesis, "speech"

1. **All Speech, All Words** - Unhindered speech, plain and clear communication that is shockingly straightforward and uncomfortably truthful
2. **All the Commands, All The Word** - Unhindered in living, going, doing, preaching, teaching, and serving. Fearless, unafraid, confident, and cheerfully courageous

## Eric's Definitions

- No longer impaired by the instinct of human self-preservation
- Set free from the shackles of "what ifs?" that surround the human soul like bands of iron
- Excitement for danger
- Seeing difficulty as opportunity
- Fearless and unintimidated - shrugging shoulders at the boasts of pain and suffering
- Emptying Death of its sting and replacing it with thrill

## A Proof of Salvation

Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, and **not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation**, and that from God.

**Philippians 1:27-28**

## The Smell of Fear

A Quick Study in the Law of the Jungle

- Woe to the one that flinches first
- The boldest man has the boldest God

## The Evidence to the Ungodly

... **not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition**, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

**Philippians 1:27-28**

## How is Boldness Formed?

- Can you steel yourself?
- Does a Christian make himself bold?
- Do we talk ourselves into this state of mind?
- Is this merely a psychological exercise of the will?

## The 6-Year Old and the Spear

## Dub and the Roller-Coaster

Roller Coasters become fun when you take the moments you are afraid and you laugh during those very moments instead of cry.

**Daddy**

Are Boldly Riding Roller-Coasters and Boldly Suffering for Christ the Same?

## The Principle

Men can develop psychological boldness to face physical and emotional tests. But, **outside of divine impartation**, men are unable to develop spiritual boldness to face spiritual tests.

## The Spiritual Nature of Cowardice

### My Confession

I am a Coward!

If I measure myself by the points and moments in which I prove strong, I will always tend to overlook and strategically justify the many moments when I am silent and weak.

### What is Cowardice?

The deadly condition native to the soul of every human born of the race of Adam. It fogs the mind when clarity is most needed, it shuts down the legs when rushing forward into danger is required, it clamps down the tongue when speaking Truth is mandatory, and it acts like glue applied to the derrière when standing up is essential.

We can offset the effects of this malady by degrees in and through training, discipline, and practice. But we cannot ever completely overcome its paralyzing powers. And at the moments we most need to escape its control, it proves that it still holds us. And these are the moments that are of spiritual import.

## The Resolve of the Early Church

We will fear nothing!

Do not fear the reproach of men, Nor be afraid of their insults . . . I, even I, am He who comforts you. Who are you that you should be afraid of a man who will die, and of the son of a man who will be made like grass?

**Isaiah 51:7,12**

Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders

may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

**Acts 4:28-31**

## Extraordinary Courage

as James was led to the place of martyrdom, his accuser was brought to repent of his conduct by the apostle's extraordinary courage and undauntedness, and fell down at his feet to request his pardon, professing himself a Christian, and resolving that James should not receive the crown of martyrdom alone. Hence they were both beheaded at the same time. Thus did the first apostolic martyr cheerfully and resolutely receive that cup, which he had told our Savior he was ready to drink.

**Fox's Book of Martyrs**

*The Martyrdom of James the Great*

## Patience so Great

At the martyrdom of Faustines and Jovita, brothers and citizens of Brescia, their torments were so many, and their patience so great, that Calocerius, a pagan, beholding them, was struck with admiration, and exclaimed in a kind of ecstasy, "Great is the God of the Christians!" for which he was apprehended, and suffered a similar fate.

**Fox's Book of Martyrs -**

*The Third Persecution, Under Trajan, A.D. 108*

## The Intrepidity of the Sufferers

The cruelties used in this persecution were such that many of the spectators shuddered with horror at the sight, and were astonished at the intrepidity of the sufferers. Some of the martyrs were obliged to pass, with their already wounded feet, over thorns, nails, sharp shells, etc. upon their points, others were scourged until their sinews and veins lay bare, and after suffering the most excruciating tortures that could be devised, they were destroyed by the most terrible deaths.

**Fox's Book of Martyrs**

*The Fourth Persecution, Under Marcus Aurelius, A.D. 162*

# Astonishing Courage

Germanicus, a young man, but a true Christian, being delivered to the wild beasts on account of his faith, behaved with such astonishing courage that several pagans became converts to a faith which inspired such fortitude.

**Fox's Book of Martyrs**

*The Fourth Persecution, Under Marcus Aurelius, A.D. 162*

SESSION TWO

# THE BOLD AND THE BRAVE

When someone says there is a lion in the way, the real Christian promptly replies, "That's hardly enough inducement for me; I want a bear or two besides to make it worth my while to go."

**CT Studd**



## Mary Slessor

*Missionary to Nigeria*

**Her Secret** - Never fearing the bravado of the Enemy

**Her Attitude** - Do it! Pour it on me! I do not fear you or your threats!



## Harriet Tubman

*Conductor of the Underground Railroad*

**Her Secret** - She considered herself untouchable while doing the Good Lord's business

**Her Attitude** - I will not die one day earlier than the Good Lord intends

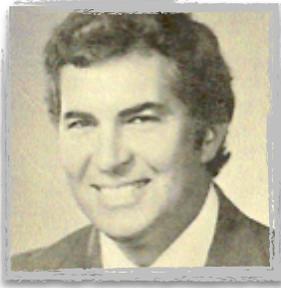


## Brother Yun

*Pastor in the Chinese House Church*

**His Secret** - Singing in the face of suffering

**His Attitude** - I will not be held in prison for one day longer than God wills. If I'm in prison, then this prison will be my mission field.



## Don Richardson

*Missionary to the cannibals of New Guinea*

**His Secret** - He was convinced that the Gospel of Jesus Christ always prevails, no matter the obstacles, no matter the impossibilities.

**His Attitude** - If someone should be afraid, it should be the cannibals, for I am in the service of the Most High God.



## David Wilkerson

*Missionary to the gangs of New York City*

**His Secret** - He knew that when he obeyed, God Himself would go before him.

**His Attitude** - Cut me into a thousand pieces and each one will cry out, "I love you!"



## Gladys Aylward

*Missionary to China*

**Her Secret** - She knew that God surrounded her and that her enemies could not thwart God's purposes in her life.

**Her Attitude** - I belong to Jesus. Between you and me He has placed a barrier. Take one more step and you will see.



## Richard Wurmbrand

*Romanian pastor*

**His Secret** - He considered it ridiculous to fear any situation in which Christ was in control.

**His Attitude** - Feel my pulse. If you notice my heart rate increase, then you will know that there is no God.



## Brother Andrew

*Bible Smuggler*

**His Secret** - He knew that God was greater than any obstacle he faced.

**His Attitude** - I'm going and God will get me through.

Every true Christian is a soldier - of Christ - a hero "par excellence!" Braver than the bravest – scorning the soft seductions of peace and her oft repeated warnings against hardship, disease, danger and death, whom he counts among his bosom friends.

The Otherwise Christian is a Chocolate Christian, dissolving in water and melting at the smell of fire. Sweeties they are! Bonbons, lollipops! Living their lives in a glass dish or in a cardboard box, each clad in his soft clothing, a little frilled white paper to preserve his dear little delicate constitution.

**C.T. Studd, Chocolate Soldier**

## Where is Boldness Found?

*In the God of all Boldness*

## It's Not Found in Your Own Pockets

But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold **in our God** to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.

**1 Thessalonians 2:2**

. . . **in whom we have boldness** and access with confidence through faith in Him.

**Ephesians 3:12**

For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and **great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.**

**1 Timothy 3:13**

Therefore, though **I might be very bold in Christ** to command you what is fitting . . .

**Philemon 1:8**

Therefore, brethren, **having boldness** to enter the Holiest **by the blood of Jesus** . . .

**Hebrews 10:19**

And now, little children, **abide in Him**, that when He appears, **we may have confidence (boldness)** and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

**1 John 2:28**

**Now this is the confidence (boldness) that we have in Him**, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

**1 John 5:14**

## In Christ we are . . .

- Bold to speak - to say what is unpopular, to hold the minority position
- Bold to testify - to declare that we are with Him
- Bold to live - to live holy, pure, unstained by this world, happy in Jesus
- Bold to protect - to stand with the unlovely, the orphan, the outcast, the persecuted minority, and the unborn
- Bold to go - to really journey where God leads, to leave comforts, to let go of ease
- Bold to stay - to endure, to stand up amidst the difficulty, to not retreat, to persevere in the place you are

## So, We May Boldly Say

So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

**Hebrews 13:6**