

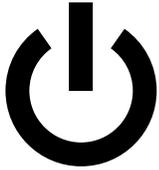


Speaker: Tony Livigni

Title: Reasonable Boldness

Summary: A posture of preparedness is a posture of boldness.

Key Verses: 1 Peter 3:15; Acts 4:5–31; Ephesians 6:20; Colossians 4:2–4



Power Up: *Take a moment to prepare*

A posture of preparedness can help us reduce stress and achieve success in many areas of life. Describe how you prepare for a big game, critical test, exciting vacation, or youth group gathering.



Replay: *Take some time to watch*

Note the flow of Tony's talk: **1)** Peter's bad situation: imprisoned and interrogated (Acts 4:1–7); **2)** Peter's bold response: clear and respectful (Acts 4:8–12); **3)** boldness defined: speaking up in God's Spirit.



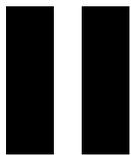
Comment: *Take some time to talk*

Tony warns that every Christian will face a time "when mentioning the name of Jesus Christi will lead to less than desirable results." **How have you experienced this at school, home, or work? How did you handle it?**

Read Acts 4:8–12. Tony identifies seven points of clarity in Peter's defense. **What are they? Why do clarity and specificity matter? What tone is most appropriate for sharing the reason for your faith? What tone comes most naturally to you when you share about Jesus?**

Tony contrasts the world's version of boldness with biblical boldness. **What is the literal meaning of boldness? What does it look like in practice? What role does personality play in your posture of boldness?**

Tony closes with three specific ways to prepare. **What are they? Which is most difficult? How can you put them into practice?**



Pause: *Take a moment to pray*

Thank Jesus for giving us a clear and specific reason for faith. Thank Him for sending His Spirit to empower us. Ask Him for boldness among family, friends, classmates, and coworkers to speak up about Him.



Take Action: *Make it personal*

Since boldness begins with prayer, consider committing Colossians 4:2–4 to memory. Make Paul's prayer for open doors and bold words your prayer. Pray it before of each school week or work shift to prepare to share.

Bonus Features: Additional Notes and Quotes from Tony Livigni

“I came [to Momentum] with a crush but left with Christ.”

Peter models his exhortation to “always be prepared” (1 Peter 3:15) in Acts 4. Preparation is a posture, a readiness of mind and spirit, a sense of anticipation.

Some Historical Context for Acts 4:5–31

- Peter was an imperfect and impulsive follower of Christ; he was ordinary (an idiot)
- Peter had seen, interacted with, and been restored by the Risen Jesus (John 22)
- Peter’s sermon at Pentecost (Acts 2) placed him as a key leader in the early church.
- Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Peter and John healed a lame man (Acts 3), and then used the attention from the miracle to proclaim Jesus. This landed them in jail.
- The religious leaders who had Jesus persecuted were the same ones interrogating Jesus: Annas (Luke 3:23; John 18:13, 24) and Caiaphas (Matt. 26:3, 57; Luke 18:13).

The Genius of Peter’s Response

- He depends on the Spirit (4:8a);
- widens the audience (4:8b);
- reframes the question (4:8b–9);
- proclaims Jesus Christ, clearly and specifically (4:10–12): Jesus, Christ, of Nazareth; crucified, raised; salvation in his name, fulfilled Scripture (Psalm 118:22);
- and proclaims Jesus in a gentle and respectful tone (1 Pet. 3:15).

“If you have the [biblical] text without the [biblical] tone it leads to misunderstanding.”

Biblical boldness: *All speech; unreservedness in speech ... regardless of the audience*

“Boldness is not about a personality or temperament; it’s about saying the whole thing... We often misunderstand boldness for loudness, volume of voice, aggressiveness”

There will be a temptation to soften your answer and generalize your response (“I’m working on me”). We can be truthful without telling the reason, but the reason is always truthful!

“Your faith is intended to be personal but never to be private.”

“Three things the religious leaders knew about Peter and John: They were bold. They were idiots. And they had been with Jesus.”

Three Ways to Prepare for Boldness

1. Pray for it (Acts 4:29–31)
2. Rely on the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:29–32)
3. Speak up.