

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

February 2021

BOLDNESS IN CHRIST

Boldness is the courage to act or speak fearlessly, despite real or imagined dangers. When a person acts boldly, he or she has a willingness to take risks and act innovatively, thinking differently, trying new ideas, or thinking out-side-the-box with confidence or courage.

Boldness is not to be confused with rashness or aggressiveness. It is, however, similar to assertiveness in that it empowers someone to do or speak what is necessary, despite the possibility of a negative outcome. Also note that boldness is the opposite of being passive. Passivity is a characteristic of someone who chooses to do nothing by holding back and letting others act. To be passive is to abstain from resistance and yield to external influences.

So how would you describe yourself by the above definitions? Are you bold having the courage to act or speak without fear? Are you assertive, willing to do or speak what is necessary despite the possible outcome? Or are you a passive person, yielding to others influences to avoid conflict or resistance?

Boldness was one of the first characteristics the Holy Spirit imparted when He came to live within believers after Jesus ascended into heaven. In chapter two of Acts we read that the followers of Jesus had been hiding in fear of the Jewish authorities, praying and encouraging one another. Then the Holy Spirit came upon them, and those that were formerly terrified became fearless preachers.

A short time later, in Acts 3 we read *“One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. ² Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” ⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. ⁶ Then Peter*

said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.”

As we read on into Acts 4 we learn that *“the priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. ⁵ The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem.”*

Can you imagine the room that day? High up above everyone sat the High Priest, his father-in-law along with two other dignitaries, John and Alexander. All around them were the learned men of the Sanhedrin. Individuals that held great power, wealth, position and authority. People that Peter and John knew had ways of making them disappear without the Roman authorities even being aware. People that were beginning to feel that their seats of power were being threatened by this new “Jesus Movement”. I can only imagine that Peter may have been tempted to wilt under all that strain. But once again the key is the power and presence of God’s Holy Spirit. That is why verse eight is the key passage. **“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit...”** He was in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. When a person is in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, I believe there is a holy courage and boldness that can be experienced.

John and Peter as the disciples faced persecution from the authorities, they prayed for boldness as we read in Acts 4. Their prayer was answered, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit and “spoke the Word with boldness” (Acts 4:31).

These chapters in Acts teaches us we need the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It teaches us that we need to be bold and courageous in our witness for Jesus. It also teaches us that God will give us that boldness when our objective is to obey and glorify Him.

If you recalled at the beginning, I mentioned assertiveness is similar to boldness. To be assertive is to show bold confidence in speech or behavior. Assertiveness can also be a positive quality that we can ask God to give us.

In Ephesians 6:20, while in prison Paul asks his friends to pray that “I might speak boldly as I ought to speak.” Paul relied on prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit to speak with confidence to those around him. The people he interacted with daily may have been guards, jailers, servants, and curious onlookers. Many of those had the power to make his situation more difficult, so he asked for prayer that he might not give way to fear and intimidation.

Our bold confidence is supplied by the Lord and empowers us to declare His truth.

James 5:20 says that whoever turns a sinner from his ways has saved him from death. We often shrink back from boldly confronting someone about unrepentant sin, but an assertive person will risk his or her popularity in order to say what needs to be said for the good of the other person(s).

Godly assertiveness is declaring what needs to be said or doing what needs to be done for the benefit of others. It is not simply airing one’s grievances or complaining to an audience. It is not demanding rights or telling someone off. It is motivated by agape love, not by selfishness or a wish to dominate others.

In closing, let’s talk about boldness being the opposite of passive. Boldness moves forward while being passive means you’re holding back. Boldness takes action while

being passive you refuse to engage.

Being passive is appropriate when we are being submissive to the will of God. Jesus demonstrated this kind of passivity on the night He was arrested. Rather than allow His disciples to fight for Him, He willingly submitted to the abuse of His captors. “When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Jesus Christ, the Lord of all, stood in a courtroom, bound with ropes, and allowed Himself to be mocked, beaten, and insulted by men-and He did nothing to stop them. He had earlier told His disciples, “Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?” (Matthew 12:53) Jesus’ passive behavior had a deeper significance, and His inaction was actually quite active: the Lord was actively giving Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. To fight back or defend Himself would have been to thwart the plan of God. Jesus’ passivity was within the will of God and therefore right.

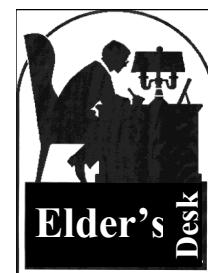
However, there is no place for us to be passive when God has called us to action.



Obedience of God’s commands often requires us to leave our comfort zones to be bold and speak out, make a choice, or move toward the goal God has set. Jesus’ last instruction to His followers was to “*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*” Matthew 28:19-20. If the disciples had chosen to be passive, Christianity would have died quickly and none of us would have heard about Jesus or be where we are today.

God is not passive. He BOLDLY sent His only Son to redeem us. When we could do nothing to save ourselves, Jesus came BOLDLY “to seek and to save that which was lost”. We are called to KNOW HIM, LOVE HIM, and BE LIKE HIM.

In His Service,
Phyllis Clark



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TLC

Together Loving Christ

Are you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

Join with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p. m.

Grow in the Word!



Sunny Place Church is open for Sunday Morning Services

Some COVID safety restrictions will apply:

- A mask is required anytime you will be walking around. Once seated, in the sanctuary or at a class in the Fellowship hall, mask can be removed.
- Masks will be required if the congregation is asked to sing.
 - Sanctuary seating will be every other row
 - Please bring your own bibles.
- Bible study classes in the fellowship hall, will have tables spread out, and can seat 4 at each table.
- Social distance will be important inside the building, so there will be no gathering in the Narthex, Sanctuary, hallways, etc.

Our Church has always been about connecting with God and one another in spirit. While many are ready to begin worship in a live setting, some are not. We will have zoom service available.

Our Sunday Morning Worship Services and Mid-Week meetings, are also being held on Zoom. Please contact us in order to have the invitations and links sent to you. The contact information is inside on the Church Events page.

Visit us at: www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ

Elders Minutes of Meeting held January 6, 2021

Attended by Pastor Pete Weber, Phyllis Clark, Tim Kasza, Ted Gehman, Glenda Kasza and Nona Koivula

Prayer: "Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another- and all the more as you see the Day approaching." *Hebrews 10:19-25*

Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance \$2,150.68 Giving \$21,674 Expenses \$17,675.59

Worship & Prayer There was a Worship Team Meeting on Dec.13. Effie Wiechering informed the team about the need for assistance to operate the Proclaim slides and manage Zoom during the Sunday Worship service. Assistance would greatly help Jacob Garcia who manages this every Sunday. Effie will ask a couple team members to learn how to operate Proclaim and Zoom management. The Elders discussed the importance of Worship on Zoom and it was decided this is a permanent opportunity for people to participate.

Christian Education & Fellowship There are two Bible Studies each week lead by Pastor Pete. All are welcome to join Zoom on Thursday evening or on Zoom or in-person on Sunday at 9:45am.

Pastoral Care & Encouragement Sam Jacob offers confidential Pastoral Care for people with needs. The Encouragement team mails cards to our congregation and remains in contact through phone calls.

Outreach & Missions: For the Outreach Ministry, Su Garrou delivered desserts to Addison First Responders. There was a Second Saturday Senior Luncheon drive through on January 9. As usual it was well organized and received by the seniors with great gratitude. Sam Jacob and Carla Weber greeted the seniors and offered to pray with them. There is spiritual as well as physical nourishment for our seniors. During this time many seniors can feel isolated. This is our opportunity to reach them with the Love of Jesus.

Stewardship & Support Services: There was an inspection of the church smoke detectors and the fire panel. The facilities passed the inspection and Sunny Place Church is recertified for a year.

New and Old Business

Our congregation has an opportunity to socially network Faithlife. This site also offers Bible studies, TV programming, documentaries, and movies. The participation is open and free for use. It is difficult to find this type of Christian programming on TV or cable.

The Elders planned the Annual Business meeting to be held Sunday January 24 both in-person and on Zoom. The Elders reviewed the 2021 proposed budget. Tim Kasza moved to accept the budget to be presented for approval at the Annual Business Meeting. Ted Gehman seconded the motion and it passed. There are two Elder nominations; they are Phyllis Clark and Sam Jacob. Ted Gehman moved to accept the Elder nominations which will be presented at the Annual Meeting for voting. Tim Kasza seconded the motion and it passed.

Next Elders meeting February 3, 2021

Sunny Place Church

February, 2021



Our Sunday Worship Services, Thursday night Bible Studies and Tuesday Meetings will be held at the scheduled times.

If you would like to join us for a service or study, via ZOOM, send an email with your name and contact information to sunnyplacecog@gmail.com to request a link to be sent to you. You can also listen to the audio sermons, within a few days afterwards, by selecting either version on: sunnyplacechurch.org/resources/audio-sermons.



Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

“The Church of God
Revealed in Scripture”

Sunday Worship Services, 10:45 a.m.

In-person and on Zoom



2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon

**Saturday, February 13th, 11:30 am
Pick-up at Sunny Place Church**

**Free for Seniors 55 & up.
Register now at 630/398-2314.**



A time to share with others:

Stories and answers
of how the Lord has
answered prayers in your life.
On Zoom only

7:00 p.m.



“Revealing Deep and Hidden Things”

A Study of the book of Daniel.

Led by Pastor Pete
On Zoom only