



OPENING PRAYER

Lord, Sovereign over all, we acknowledge that You are in control over every space we walk into this week. Fill us again with Your Holy Spirit. Replace fear with courage, hesitation with obedience, and silence with Spirit-led speech. Teach us to represent Jesus faithfully in our everyday lives. Grant us boldness—not for ourselves, but for Your mission. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

WELCOME AND CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

Be honest—what’s harder:

- A) Talking to a stranger at the gym, or
- B) Bringing up your faith in a normal conversation?

Why?



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WORD

When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said,

“Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

‘Why did the Gentiles rage,
and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers were gathered together,
against the Lord and against his Anointed’ —

for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:22–31 (ESV)

REFLECTION / COMMENTARY

Biblical boldness is not about personality, volume, or being naturally confident—it is the overflow of Spirit-filled obedience. Peter and the apostles weren’t fearless; they were surrendered. Their courage came from being with Jesus and being filled with His Spirit.

As N. T. Wright observes, “The early Christians prayed not for protection from danger but for courage within it.” That distinction is critical. In a context like Australia—where opposition is often social, subtle, or internal—boldness looks less like confrontation and more like conviction under pressure.

Notice the order in Acts 4:

They prayed → They were filled → They spoke.

Boldness is not something we hype up; it’s something the Spirit produces.

John Stott puts it this way: “The fullness of the Spirit is not a private experience only; it is given for witness.” In other words, the Holy Spirit doesn’t just comfort us—He compels us outward.

At the centre of it all is God’s sovereignty. They begin with “Sovereign Lord...” — anchoring their courage in who God is, not what they feel. That same confidence carried Jesus to the cross. His boldness wasn’t loud—it was resolute obedience in the face of suffering.

So biblical boldness today might look like:

- Speaking truth with grace when it’s unpopular
- Refusing quiet compromise
- Publicly identifying with Jesus without apology
- Stepping into spiritual conversations with intentionality
- Praying for people in ordinary, everyday spaces

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which misconception of boldness have you believed most—loudness, personality, or fearlessness? How has that shaped your behaviour?
2. Why do you think the early church prayed for boldness instead of safety? What does that reveal about their mission?
3. How does starting with “God is Sovereign” change the way you approach difficult or uncomfortable situations?
4. Where do you feel the most pressure to stay silent about your faith right now?
5. What would it look like for you to “continue to speak the word with boldness” in your current rhythm of life?
6. How can the Holy Spirit practically help you move from hesitation to obedience this week?

Points of Activation

1. Reframe Your Daily Prayer

Before your day starts, pray this:

- “Lord, today give me one moment to represent You.”
- “Give me the courage to step into it when it comes.”

This keeps boldness **intentional, not accidental**.

2. Use the “3 Open Doors” Approach

Look for these three natural moments in conversation:

- Care Door → Someone shares a struggle
- Response: “Hey, would it be okay if I prayed for you?”
- Story Door → A conversation about life, purpose, or challenges
- Response: Briefly share what Jesus has done in your life (keep it 30–60 seconds)
- Invitation Door → Natural relational connection
- Response: “You should come along sometime—I think you’d really enjoy it.”

Boldness here is not forcing moments—it’s recognising them.

3. Practice “Name It Early” Faith

Within the first or second interaction with someone new (colleague, gym, neighbour), naturally reference your faith:

- “At church on Sunday we were talking about...”
- “One thing that’s helped me lately in my faith is...”

This removes the pressure later. You’ve already made your identity clear.

4. One Person, One Step (This Week)

Ask the Holy Spirit: “Who is one person I can move toward?”

Then take **one step**:

- Send a message
- Start a deeper conversation
- Offer prayer
- Share a testimony

Clarity: Boldness is not doing everything—it’s doing the next right step.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, thank You that boldness is not something we manufacture, but something You form in us. Fill us again with Your Spirit. Open our eyes to the moments around us. Give us courage to speak, wisdom to discern, and love that reflects Jesus. Let our lives and our words point people to You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.