



October 30, 2024

Word Wise Wednesday – V1, EP2

Boldness in Our Faith: Confidence to Approach God

As I've been settling into life here in Palmer, Alaska, I've had the opportunity to soak in the beauty surrounding us. The towering mountains, glaciers, and endless skies remind me of the power and grandeur of God. In a place like this, it's easy to feel small and even overwhelmed by the forces of nature. But at the same time, Alaska is a place of resilience—where both the land and its people have learned to stand firm in the face of extremes. This setting provides the perfect backdrop to think about the boldness God invites us to have in our relationship with Him. Much like the bold and rugged individuals who before us set out to explore and inhabit this land, we are called to be bold in our faith.

Scripture Teaching: Boldness in Christ (Ephesians 3:12)

In Ephesians 3:12, Paul writes, "In Him and through faith in Him, we may approach God with freedom and confidence." The boldness spoken of here isn't the same bravery that Alaskans need to trek through the wilderness or navigate the winters. Instead, it's a spiritual boldness that allows us to come before the Creator of the universe—freely and without fear.

The Greek word Paul uses for “boldness” here is **παρρησία (parrēsia)**, which means "freedom of speech" or "openness." It suggests a relationship where we can be sincere and transparent before God without fear of judgment or rejection. This boldness is rooted in our **faith** in Christ. Because of His sacrifice, we can now enter into God's presence not timidly but with complete assurance that we are welcomed and loved.

This kind of boldness was radical in Paul's time. The Jewish people were accustomed to worshiping God through strict systems of laws and sacrifices, with access to God's presence limited to a select few. But through Jesus, the dividing wall between God and humanity has been torn down. The barriers have been removed, and now ordinary people like you and me have the privilege of boldly and humbly approaching God directly with confidence.

Overcoming the Barriers to Boldness

Despite this free invitation, many struggle with boldness in their relationship with God. Like the mountains and glaciers that seem impassable, we often feel barriers between us and God. Perhaps it's guilt over past sins, fear that we're not worthy, distance because we don't see God physically around us, or simply uncertainty about how God sees us. These obstacles can keep us from praying confidently or believing that God truly cares about the details of our lives.

But here's the good news: those barriers were dealt with once and for all through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 2:13 that "now in Christ Jesus, you who once



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were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” Our relationship with God is no longer based on our ability to live perfectly or follow all the rules. It is based on **grace**—on what Christ has already done for us.

We must be willing to **trust** that Christ has cleared the way for us to confidently and boldly approach God. The Bible tells us that when we confess our sins, God is faithful to forgive us (1 John 1:9). It also tells us that God is compassionate and gracious, “slow to anger, abounding in love” (Psalm 103:8). He invites us to come to Him, to bring our struggles, doubts, and fears, and to trust that He welcomes us with open arms. So go boldly to him!

Application: Living Boldly in Our Faith

How do we apply this truth? How do we live with **boldness** in our faith, especially in a world that often feels uncertain or intimidating?

1. **Pray with Confidence:** If we truly believe that God welcomes us, we should approach Him regularly with our needs, desires, and even our doubts. Prayer is not a formality or ritual; it’s an opportunity to have an honest conversation with our Creator. The next time you pray, remember that God listens attentively and wants to hear from you.
2. **Live with Assurance:** Many of us carry unnecessary burdens of guilt or shame. Jesus has already paid the price for those burdens. Live with the **assurance** that you are forgiven and that God’s grace is enough. Living with boldness and assurance will free you to live more fully for Him, no longer weighed down by the past.
3. **Be Bold in Sharing Your Faith:** Just as we are called to approach God with boldness, we are also called to share the gospel boldly with others. Whether through conversations with friends, family, or coworkers, don’t be afraid to speak about your hope in Christ. Alaska is a place that draws people looking for something greater; we have the opportunity to point them to the greatest hope of all—Jesus.

Let us stand boldly and confidently in our faith. With **boldness**, we can approach God, knowing that He loves us, forgives us, and desires a close relationship with us. Let’s also live boldly in our day-to-day lives, trusting in the grace of Christ and sharing that grace with others.

As we journey through life’s rugged terrain, let’s remember that God has given us the boldness to face any obstacle—not through our own strength but through faith in Christ.



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