

Called to stand out not to blend in

I was minding my own business in the hot tub of a hotel one evening, when I knew in my spirit, I was supposed to minister to two young ladies. There was no doubt that they were lost, deep in sin and looking for answers. It was one of these times when I knew the Holy spirit was talking to them in a powerful way. They were listening and asking some deep interesting questions and it appeared that their heart was being pricked by God Himself. It was going well until a big fellow came and commanded me in a very strong and authoritative way to stop “talking about Jesus!” I was shocked, furious, but for a few seconds I felt the sting of intimidation until I realized that it was the same spirit of Anti-Christ who in Acts 4, forbade Peter and John “to speak in that Name.”

As ministers of the Gospel, we will soon or later be confronted with that same intimidating spirit of anti-Christ. That spirit might intimidate us to close our door, stop worship, stop laying hands on people, or stop addressing the truth about issues of the day. If and when it does, then Peter’s answer must be our answer: “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge”; his prayer must be ours: “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.” They didn’t keep quiet, they didn’t shy away but rather spoke with more passion and more zeal and this is when and why, I believe God was able to move, shake the place, and confirm His word with signs, wonders and miracles.

As ministers, we all want to move in greater anointing and see more miracles, signs & wonders in and through our ministry but I believe the key lays in boldness and fearlessness out of humility, an attitude that says no matter what the consequences, God’s will be done not mine! I like what Winston Churchill once said: **“Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities, because it is the quality which guarantees all others.”**

I believe that many, in the name of love and a false sense of peace and unity have been silent and withheld truth so not to offend anyone. It is truth with grace that can set people free not love and peace. Jesus never withheld truth even if it meant He would lose a huge following as in *John 6:66* **“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.”** Here is an interesting anecdote, the spirit of anti-Christ was at work in John **6:66**, and most abandoned Jesus, yet He refused to shrink from His message. Like Jesus we cannot be intimidated by people but just need to stand up and keep preaching the truth, even when it is not easy, popular or convenient. In the words of Dag Hammarskjold : **“It is when we all play safe that we create a world of utmost insecurity.”**

I recently ministered in a church that seemed to explode at the seams and they were looking for a new building to accommodate the growth. While talking with them I discovered that the growth came as a result of them prayerfully refusing, despite the consequences, to close their doors during covid, so that people would have a place to come for help, worship, prayer and community. They were sued by the city, won the case, all the while their in quality. They now see more delivered from addictions than ever seal of approval by sending them His Jesus to me!

Paul said in *Eph 6:19* “*And for me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to for which I am an ambassador in chains, that therein I may speak boldly as I ought to speak*”. Now Paul indeed was a bold and fearless ambassador for Christ, and so can we! We have been equipped, appointed, commanded to bring truth boldly in His Name. We must make out our mind to stand against that spirit of intimidation. It requires courage, but the rewards are amazing.