

"THREE QUALITIES OF GODLY COURAGE"

(Acts 4:1-22)

(Chuck Swindoll)

Careful examination of this passage reveals no fewer than three qualities that distinguish a godly person courageously choosing to do what is right. Each quality points to a principle that can help us imitate Peter and John in the face of intimidation and coercion.

First, *observe the confidence of Peter and John*. This is not arrogance. When the Holy Spirit fills someone, humility displaces arrogance. Arrogance comes from insecurity; these two men spoke with confidence because they found security in the Lord, not in themselves.

Second, *consider the authority of Peter and John*. They never received formal training to debate theology and philosophy like the powerful and intelligent temple leaders. They had only the basic education given to all Jewish children in Galilee. The apostles stood on Christ's authority, not their own. They possessed a direct line to absolute truth: Jesus Christ, the living Word of God.

Third, *see the effectiveness of Peter and John*. By yielding to the control of the Holy Spirit, the men became instruments of God's will. Doing what is right in the face of intimidation and coercion produces results. The price might be high, even the sacrifice of one's life. But the Lord will honor obedience. The undeniable effect of the apostles' obedience stood beside them—a formerly paralyzed man restored to perfect health.

When you choose to do what is right, you can walk and speak with secure, humble confidence. Your thoughts and actions proceed from a clear understanding of truth. Though perhaps misunderstood, maligned, or even persecuted, you can still walk with steadfast peace deep within, knowing that the Lord understands, approves, and rewards those who remain faithful.

