

2023 Living Boldy Series:

What Does it Mean For You to Live Boldy For God?

Precious women of God,

I am so thankful for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you today, ladies. I wish you a Happy New Year and pray that in 2023 God will bless you in every way. I pray the peace of God will guard your hearts and minds. I pray that you will overflow with hope every single day of this year. I pray that you will experience more of everything God has for you as you pursue Him with all your hearts.

I am thankful also for the women who helped with our Discipleship Series in 2022. We had great participation as many of you returned each week to read our current blog. My thanks to Julie Dibble, Carol Keefer, Heidi Looney, Sally Green, and Norma Klock for sharing their gift of writing with us in 2022, and join me in praying in advance for those whom God has called to share with us in this coming year.

You may or may not know that it is the vision of the leadership team of CGWM to connect and equip women to live boldly for God. Our desire is to see women disciples of Christ who are actively discipling others. Because of that, our theme for The

Flourish Conference this year centers around that same vision. We hope you are already planning to attend with us the first weekend of March and that you will bring several friends with you as well. We can't wait to gather together to hear what God has given our speakers to share that will help all of us live more boldly for God.

Have you ever wondered what that even means anyway? Are you living boldly for God? What do you think it would look like for you to be living more boldly for God? Because none of us believes that topic can be covered in one weekend and because we know that many of you will be unable to join us at The Flourish Conference this year, we are going to devote this year's blog to living boldly for God. Each month we will explore a different topic around this theme. We invite you to join us each week of 2023 and pray that all of us will be living more boldly for God as the year passes.

We will learn from Esther, Hannah, Ruth, and Deborah among other women of the Bible how they lived boldly for

Since we have such a hope, we are very bold.

[2 Corinthians 3:12]



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God. We will learn from Corrie ten Boom, Gladys Aylward, Ruth Graham Bell, and other women of our day what living boldly for God looks like and what it takes. And, we will hear from other women of God in our churches who are living boldly for God and how God has helped them to do just that.

I know from my own experience that being a disciple of Christ is a wonderful adventure. The more I seek Him and the more I know Him, the more exciting it becomes! One key to living more boldly for God is to spend time with Him every day in His Word and in prayer. Don't let the enemy convince you that you are too busy for that. He knows that your spiritual life depends on it!

Another way to learn to live boldly for God is to hang out with other women who are doing just that. We are much bolder in our walk with Christ

when we have others on the journey with us. This is why the enemy works so hard to keep us isolated and alone. I think he knows we need one another even more than we do!

If you know of women in your circle who are not online, we want to let you know that at the end of each month, we will be compiling these weekly blogs into a newsletter that can be downloaded, printed and shared with the women in your church. You can find these on our website at <https://www.cggcwomen.org/general-6>. Our December issue has just been posted! We hope you will help us with that so that more of our ladies will be growing and learning along with us what it means to live more boldly.

Until next time, I challenge you to look up some verses about being bold and ask the Holy Spirit to begin to teach you and enable you to grow in this area. Not got the time to look up

verses? Meditate on 2 Corinthians 3:12.

"Since we have such a hope, we are very bold."

Do you know a woman who is living boldly for God? We'd love to hear about it. Email information to cgwmdirector@gmail.com.

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Kathy Foor

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Living Boldly For God

by Julie Dibble

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

"Come, follow Me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

At once they left their nets and followed Him.

[Matthew 4:18-20]

You and I are called to follow Him, regardless of our current situation. Peter and Andrew left their nets floating in the water. They were literally in the middle of their work for the day. After waking, dressing, eating, and traveling, Peter and Andrew persevered in sticking to their own plan. God saw them and had His plans for them.



Jesus interrupted. Without much explanation or invitation for discussion, Jesus basically told them: *Follow me. I have a different job for you. He didn't mention a wage or the extent of the commitment He was seeking.* This past summer as I preached at Revival, I used this Scriptural

example, asking those in attendance who would leave their jobs for Jesus? One man boldly called out, "Yes". I can testify that if you commit yourself to saying yes to Jesus, He will interrupt you. It is not just a matter of going outside your comfort zone. It is releasing the plans you have made for your day, for your month, for your season and following His. Once you lay your plans down at His feet, you must also lay your plethora of questions about His plans. His Word promises to be a lamp unto our feet as they walk with Him, not a floodlight revealing intimate details of a forthcoming divine assignment.

This past Christmas Eve, God appointed me to lead the service at Paxton Ministries. I was to report at 12 pm that day. The night before I sat at my computer to pray and write the message. I struggled to make it flow, to remember what Spirit had whispered the weeks before. Nonetheless, I needed something, so I printed what I had and put it in my binder.

The next morning at around 10:15 am, God interrupted my flow. I had chosen my outfit and was preparing to shower. The Spirit was strong. He sat me down and flowed the message through my fingertips. I typed as fast as I could to keep up with Him. When we follow Him, small and large miracles happen.

Remember later in the disciples' lives, Jesus overfilled the net with fish?

Holy Spirit led one resident to recommit her life to Christ during the Christmas Eve service. Because I allowed Him to interrupt my shower/dressing/makeup time, because I scrapped my message for His, I got to witness the miracle of a repentant soul crawl back to the Cross.

Boldness in the Lord is of the Lord, not of ourselves. When Peter left the nets that first day and followed Jesus, he had no idea he would be leading thousands to Christ after His resurrection and ascension. Conversely, if we restrict our following the Lord to only when we have time or only what is comfortable, we will not be used as His vessels.

Early in Acts, Peter and John healed a lame man and were detained?

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people!"

[Acts 4:8]

Peter went on to give glory to Jesus for the healing, reminding all who were present they crucified Jesus but God rose him from the dead.

*When they say the **boldness** of Peter and John and realized that*

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they were unschooled, ordinary men, they marveled and took note that these men had been with Jesus.

[Acts 4:13, emphasis added]

Sisters, the Holy Spirit is the source of our boldness in living, speaking, and serving. Daily submission, a willingness to leave our work/plans half-finished, and a bold **YES, LORD** sets our hearts in heaven's direction. Only then will we experience the fullness of life promised by Jesus (John 10:10).



Julie Dibble is a servant of her Lord Jesus Christ. Together with her husband Jason, they have two sons, Braedon 17 and

Jackson 15, and one rescued pup named Rocko. Julie preaches, writes, hikes, and prays for God to use her daily in this broken world. Currently, she is on staff at Newberrytown Church of God as Director of Outreach and Evangelism.

Living boldly for God in today's world can be daunting, to say the least. We often feel like we're swimming against the current and fighting against forces that oppose our faith. But, if we're willing to take a stand for what we believe in and courageously follow God's plans for our lives, we will find a renewed strength.

As Christian women, it's essential that we evaluate the world around us and discern how we can serve the Lord in its midst. We must be willing to take the lead in boldly proclaiming the gospel (Acts 4:5-22), maintaining the sanctity of our faith (2 Timothy 4:7), and speaking out on social issues in a grace-filled manner (Colossians 3:12-14). We must find ways to share God's love with those around us, no matter the cost.

In addition, living boldly for God means building a strong relationship with Him (John 14:23). We must learn to trust in Him and rely on His strength to face life's challenges. We must strengthen our faith through prayer and Scripture study, refusing to give in to the temptation of worldliness or compromise the truth of the gospel (2 Timothy 2:15). We

must also guard ourselves from unhealthy influences, like media that celebrates values contrary to those taught in the Bible (2 Peter 2:1-3).

Lastly, to live boldly for God, we must have the courage to be who God has created us to be (Genesis 1:27) and be okay with it (2 Timothy 1:6). We must strive for authenticity in our lives and in our faith. We must admit our shortcomings and be willing to take ownership of our mistakes. We must be open to constructive criticism yet remain grounded in our faith in times of ridicule. Exploring our own identities, even in an ever-changing society, will free us to be who we are meant to be, living authentically for God.

Living boldly for God in today's world is a challenge and a journey. But it's one that we must undertake if we are to be obedient to His will. With courage, faith, and an unwavering commitment, we can be valiant in His name and be a shining light in a dark world.



Reflections on Living Boldly

by Sally Green

"But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict."

[1 Thessalonians 2:2]



Heather Boss, Director of Firehouse Academy, is a teacher and speaker. Heather is happily married to her husband

Taylor, and a mother of two delightful girls and a son due in 2023. She and her family have made their home in Moore, Oklahoma. Heather has been in ministry around the world for over ten years. She serves as the Youth and Family Advisor for Churches of God, General Conference ministries throughout Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Missouri and Kansas. She is a spiritual care chaplain for Oklahoma Conference of Churches in Oklahoma and is the Administrative Pastor at Firehouse Community Outreach in Moore. Heather is a strong advocate for the Family Ministries Mountain.

As I write this, it is the day after Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. As I read again events of MLK I can only imagine all that he endured, but even in death, he has become a hero in our country as his teachings have left an enduring legacy.

When I taught second grade, the mayor of our city always asked the children to write an essay regarding Martin Luther King, Jr. It was interesting and enlightening to see what ideas the children mentioned as they wrote about his life. Many of their comments talked about his advocacy for peace in our country and to treat everyone equally.

While Jesus is incomparable to any other person, I can still notice some similarities in the character of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Jesus. They both lived out their beliefs. Both would want equality for every person. Both had the hearts and hands to serve others.

I pray that I would be more bold in my expressions of love to every person. Proverbs 28 speaks of being bold:

"The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as BOLD as a lion."

[Proverbs 28:1]

"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."

[Galatians 5:13]



Sally Green has been in the Churches of God since before birth! She grew up in the Collamer Church of God in South Whitley, Indiana,

met her husband Dave at Summer Seminar in 1963 on the Findlay College campus, and graduated from Findlay College with a degree in elementary education. They have served the Lord at the Leadwood Church of God and Columbia City First Church of God and are now members of the College First Church of God in Findlay. Sally and Dave have been married for 56 years and have a daughter and son and 4 grandchildren. Serving in several different capacities at the General Conference level for 18 years in the WCSC/CGWM continues to be a highlight of her career.

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If you or your women's group have not been a part of Thank Offering in the past and would like to, all you need to do is get a container and start thanking God for the many blessings he gives you each day. Look for our reminders to send in your offerings in April. We are better together! Thank Offering barrels may be obtained by contacting Kathy Foor or ordering online at [Berlin Packaging](#).

Visit our Website
<https://www.cggcwomen.org/>

There you will find:

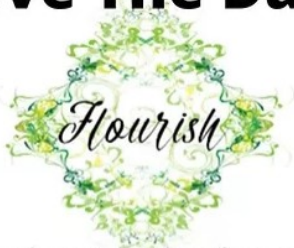
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