

Sermon Outline Example 1

Opening Prayer

Title

Holy Boldness

Text

2 Timothy 1:7

Introduction

Many of us love the Lord and know we have been gifted to serve Him, but we are afraid of those we are called to lead. Yet God can free us from that fear, and in this verse Paul tells us how.

Proposition

The Holy Spirit frees us from the fear of ministering to people.

Key Question

How does the Holy Spirit free us from the fear of ministering to people?

(Extra) Explanation

Notice that Paul calls this fear of people a “spirit of fear/timidity” (deilia). This indicates that there is a spiritual warfare against those who minister. So to overcome this spiritual attack, we will need spiritual help. We must learn to rely on the Holy Spirit.

Transitional Sentence

There are three ways the Holy Spirit frees us from this spiritual attack that tries to prevent us from ministering in whatever way the Lord has called us

Point 1

He gives us (the spirit of) power.

Explanation

What is it? The power of the Holy Spirit comes over us and clears our minds so we can think. He also comes over the congregation and we can see Him working in their hearts as we are preaching.

Why do we want it? Knowing that we can count on Him to show up allows us to ignore our initial fears and start speaking.

How do we get it? The power of the Holy Spirit is our birthright. We have the right to expect Him to help us every time. Here are some practical steps that will help us draw on that power:1) know your

assignment. Remember, God put you here, this is His idea not yours. 2) Know your message: If you have prepared properly, you can relax because you know this is a good word we need to hear. 3) Worship into His presence beforehand. Always seek to get in the spirit before you minister.

Illustration

Maybe an illustration here

Transitional Sentence

The Holy Spirit also helps us overcome this spirit of fear in another important way.

Point 2

He gives us love.

Explanation

What is it? It's agapé love, that costly, selfless love for others. This love drives us to push aside our fears in order to care for the people God has asked us to serve. We love them because we know how much He loves them.

Why do we want it? Love makes us bold to put our fears aside and minister.

How do we get it? We remind ourselves that these are people for whom Jesus died. We remember how much the Father longs for them.

Illustration

A mother becoming bold to protect her children.

Transitional Sentence

The Spirit gives us power and love, but He also has one more amazing gift to give us that will free us from the fear of ministry and enable us to serve the Lord effectively.

Point 3

He gives us (sophronismos) discipline.

Explanation

What is it? This Greek word means a sound mind, as in sober, not drunk or confused.

Why do we want it? God will focus our thoughts when we are frightened and our mind freezes.

How do we get it? We can quietly pray when our mind begins to wander. We can ask the Lord to clear our minds of distracting thoughts or strengthen it if we are tired, or show us what to say next, and He will help us in the moment.

Illustration

Tell a story that lets us "watch" this truth in action. Don't read this even if you're telling a Bible event. Relax and let it flow.

I have experienced this help from the Holy Spirit many times, in fact almost every time I've had to minister. God has always been faithful to help. Let me give you an example:

Transitional Sentence

Conclusion

Timothy was young, his mother was Jewish and his father was Greek. Neither group wanted him. He had watched terrible things being done to Paul, and he had been left to pastor a church in the powerful, wealthy city of Ephesus. He was intimidated to preach and lead this difficult group of people. He was afraid of his assignment, and you and I would be too. But, as we've seen, God had given Timothy a resource that would enable this young, frightened pastor to overcome that fear and fulfill his calling. He had the Holy Spirit dwelling inside him, and the Holy Spirit would always provide: power, love, and a sound, clear mind whenever Timothy chose to turn to Him. And He will do the same for you and me.

Ministry Plan

Who is here today who knows you have been called to serve the Lord in a particular way, but fear, particularly fear of people, has held you back? Will you make a decision today to trust your great Paraklete (Helper, Comforter, Counselor) to set you free from that fear? If so, would you raise your hand (or stand where you are, or come forward)? We want to pray this promise of 1 Timothy 1:7 over you today and declare you free!

Or: Right where you are, I would like you to pray after me and I will stop at some point and have you declare to the Lord what He has called you to do. And then we will thank Him for giving you the power, love, and sound mind to do it well.

Closing Prayer