

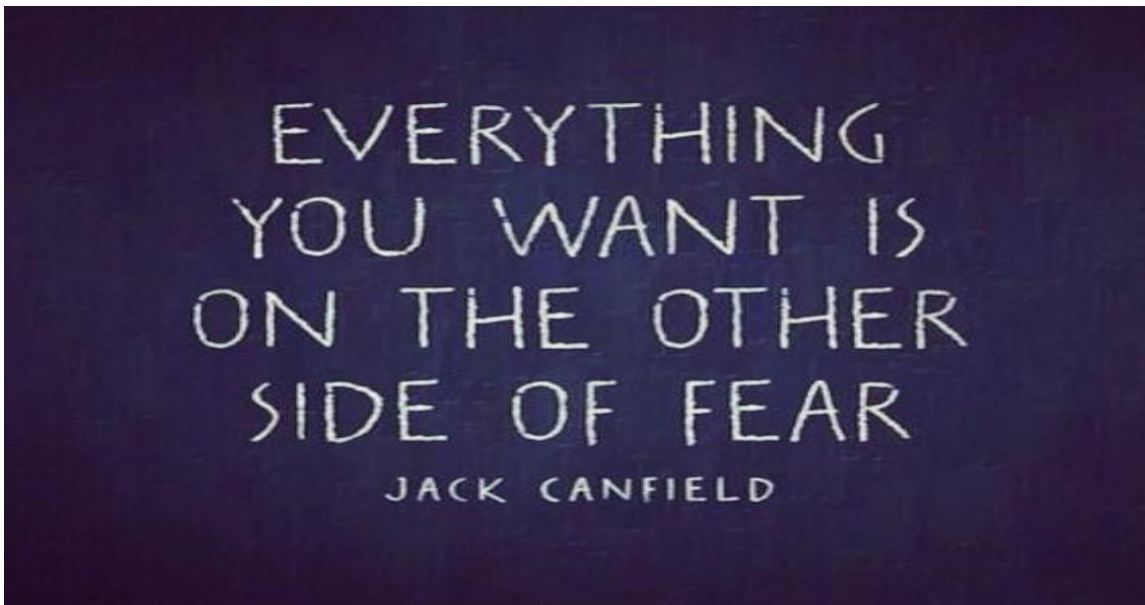
## Bold and Courageous

*Video Slides of "fear" playing as I read these Scriptures:*

**Proverbs 28:1** - The wicked flee when no one pursues, But the righteous are bold as a lion.

**2 Timothy 1:7** - For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

When we think about the apostles and early church leaders, we picture them from the book of Acts. We see men and women boldly standing up before hostile crowds proclaiming the good news of Jesus. We see people's lives being transformed everywhere they went by the power of the Holy Spirit operating through them. Yet, only days these same men were cowardly and full of fear! This is one of the greatest comeback stories of the entire Bible.



### Fearful & Cowardly

- Matthew 26:56-57, 69-75
- Luke 24:36-40
- Luke 24:41 NLT - Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder.

### Bold & Courageous

- Acts 4:5-16
- What happened? Only weeks before these same men were huddled in fear and anxiety behind locked doors. Now they are boldly proclaiming Christ on the streets of Jerusalem. They are boldly giving testimony before the most powerful men in their country. These are the same leaders that demanded and obtained the death of Jesus. Yet, Peter and John now hear their threats and defy these powerful men, who have the authority to call for their death. What happened?
- Jesus happened to them. The Holy Spirit happened to them?

### Luke 24:41-53

- They share a meal with Jesus.
- He opened their understanding so they might comprehend Scripture.

- He told them to wait for the promise of the Holy, who would fill them with power from on high.
- They walked with Jesus for a few more days until he returned to Heaven.
- They stayed in a posture of worship, praise and prayer.
- They obediently waited for The Promise!

### **Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-21**

- Holy Spirit was poured out on every yielded vessel.
- They were filled with the Holy Spirit.
- They spoke with other tongues.
- They began preaching the Gospel powerfully and supernaturally in every language represented in the city.
- Peter preached a simple, powerful message.
- 3000 were saved and added to the church.
- Until their deaths, they boldly proclaimed Christ to the world.

### **Call to Action**

- You must be born again.
- You can be filled with this same Holy Spirit and power of God
- **Ephesians 5:18** NLT - Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.