



Recently, a study from religious watchdog groups said that Christians are practicing various forms of self-censorship, and find it increasingly difficult to express their faith freely.

This negates what the Word of God tells us, as these scriptures from the very mouth of Christ declare:

Luke 9:26: "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My Words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His *own* glory, and *in His* Father's, and of the holy angels."

Mat 10:38: "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me."

Why should we be bold in sharing the truth of the gospel?

1Tim 1:8 says, "Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God."

2Tim 3:16-17: "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

In other words, how will the world find salvation and truth, if we're afraid to be His witnesses to a lost and dying world?

Can we profess, as 2Tim 1:7 says, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind"?

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Regrettably, some use scriptures more as slogans, than for the intent they were laid out by God.

First, let's address the mighty power of God within us:

2Tim 3:16 tells us that, "All Scripture is breathed out by God." That underscores that the power of God is released in us when we allow God's Word to dominate our lives.

While Philippians 4:13 tells us "We can do all things through Christ", verse 12 preempt by saying, "I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need."

2Cor 12:9 adds, "And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

In essence, any power manifested through our testimony is from God, not because we deserve it or are talented, but because the power is in the Word of God. We're simply the conduit, from God to the world, through the power of Christ in our lives.

1Cor 1:18 says, "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

Do we strive to live humbly under the power of the Word of God?

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IS FINANCIAL PROSPERITY THE FOCUS OF OUR LIFE?

*"The thief does not come except to steal,
and to kill, and to destroy. I have come
that they may have life, and that they may
have it more abundantly." John 10:10*

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Deceivers like to quote John 10:10 inferring that God desire we prosper financially.

Here's what Jesus said on this:

Mat 6:25: "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"

Mat 6:32-33 "For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

What then is the life abundant that Jesus promised us?

Eph 3:16-19: "That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height, to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

The reason God said through the prophet in Jeremiah 17:7: "Blessed *is* the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD."

Are we seeking an abundant life, grounded in faith and love in the fullness of Christ, or are we chasing after money and possessions?

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As scripture tells us to put on the armor of God, do we see ourselves as some Goliath moving proudly in aggressive mode? Or do we rather realize the spiritual strength needed to move forward, the necessity to be on the lookout and keep watch over our thoughts and attitudes, and to put our trust in Christ?

Paul describes the armor of God in Eph 6:12-18: "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*."

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints."

Do we humbly wear God's armor moving forward under His power and to His glory?

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The apostle Paul in Heb 11:6 said this about faith in God and Christ: "But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

In all truth, we can't please God if we don't believe in Christ from the heart, nor can we hope for eternal life in His presence.

Eph 3:16-17 describes the inner workings of true faith:

"That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith."

For what purpose:

Gal 2:20: "The *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

2Cor 5:6-7: "So *we are* always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight."

2Cor 5:1: "For we know that if our earthly house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

In essence, faith isn't based on our strength, but rather is grounded in Christ, that in abiding in Him and His Word, we will be strengthened in our beliefs, not through the power of men, but through God.

Will we trust Christ?

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