

Philippians 1:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Analysis

And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear (καὶ τοὺς πλείονας τῶν ἀδελφῶν ἐν κυρίῳ πεποιθότας τοῖς δεσμοῖς μου, kai tous pleionas tōn adelphōn en kyriō pepoithotas tois desmois mou)—Pleionas ("the majority, more") suggests most Roman Christians were emboldened, though vv. 15-17 show mixed motives. Pepoithotas (perfect participle of peithō, "persuade") indicates settled confidence gained **by my bonds** (τοῖς δεσμοῖς μου, tois desmois mou, dative of means).

Paul's courageous suffering inspired courage. **Much more bold to speak the word without fear** (περισσοτέρως τολμᾶν ἀφόβως τὸν λόγον λαλεῖν, perissoterōs tolman aphobōs ton logon lalein)—tolman ("to dare, have courage") and aphobōs ("fearlessly") emphasize boldness. If the apostle fearlessly proclaimed Christ while chained, how could they stay silent while free? Faithful suffering catalyzes others' faithfulness.

Historical Context

Nero's persecution of Christians began around AD 64 (after Rome's fire), but even before official persecution, Christian confession carried social and legal risks. Paul's imprisonment under Nero's reign heightened danger. Yet rather than silencing the church, his example galvanized it. This pattern—martyr's blood as seed of the church—became a Christian distinctive.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Whose faithful suffering has emboldened your witness, and how did it change you?
2. How does your response to hardship either inspire or discourage other believers?
3. What fears keep you from bold gospel proclamation that Paul's example should eliminate?

Interlinear Text

καὶ τοὺς πλείονας τῶν ἀδελφῶν ἐν κυρίῳ
And many of the brethren in the Lord
G3588 G4119 G3588 G80 G1722 G2962

πεποιθότας τοῖς δεσμοῖς μου περισσοτέρως τολμᾶν
waxing confident bonds by my are much more bold
G3982 G3588 G1199 G3450 G4056 G5111

ἀφόβως τὸν λόγον λαλεῖν
without fear the word to speak
G870 G3588 G3056 G2980

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 2:2 (Parallel theme): But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

Colossians 4:4 (Parallel theme): That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

Luke 1:74 (Parallel theme): That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,

Philippians 1:7 (Parallel theme): Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

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