

# “BOLD AS A LION”

**THE TEXT:**

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

**THE TOPIC:** *Courage*

**NOTE:** Two characters: ***the wicked***, very frightened, like a sheep.  
***the righteous***, very bold, like a lion!

**QUESTION:** *How about you?* ***righteous***, through faith in Christ, the imputed righteousness (justification)  
***not-so-righteous***, but meaning to become more so, through the experience of knowing Christ...

Hence, this song by Canadian singer/songwriter **Bruce Cockburn:** *“I wonder where the lions are...”*

It is a wonderful thing, it can be an exhilarating thing, a thrilling thing, to experience being no longer afraid of things you used to be afraid of! Or even ALMOST not afraid *“... they weren't half as frightening as they were before...”*

**THIS MORNING:** A **“To Do List”** for becoming a more courageous person.

**TO DO** (to become more courageous)

**1. Know God better.**

**Psalms 27:1** The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**1 Peter 1:8** Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory

There is a recipe in the New Testament to fight fear and worry...  
**RECIPE** (to fight fear and worry)

Be strengthened with the joy of the Lord

**Philippians 4:7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**RECIPE** (to fight fear and worry)

Be strengthened with the joy of the Lord  
+ Be guarded by the peace of God

**Romans 15:13** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

**RECIPE** (to fight fear and worry)

Be strengthened with the joy of the Lord  
+ Be guarded by the peace of God  
Abound (overflow) with hope = **No fear!**

**2 Timothy 1:7** God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

**1 Peter 3:15** in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect

*How?* We get into the Word and it gets into us. We get into the church, and the people of the church have their impact on us.

## 2. **Fear God more.**

**Proverbs 1:7** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge

**Proverbs 8:13** The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil.

**Proverbs 9:10** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

**Revelation 15:3-4** “Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

**Luke 12:4, 5** I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

## 3. **Practice being bold** Learn courage. Start with *little leonine steps* ... Don't be so sheepish.

Let's go ahead: let's actually do something. (It is an ideal time and place! You won't be jailed, or tortured or executed. Maybe just laughed at a bit!)

Let's do some things that require courage... strengthened by the joy of the Lord and guarded (heart and mind) by the peace of God and abounding with hope:

- Highly personal:** Maybe:
- a) Start a conversation you should have
  - b) Re-start a conversation that you have had but should have had differently
  - c) Do an act of kindness that needs doing
  - d) Take a stand that you have been sheepish up until now.

And while people are wondering about your boldness (“*bold as a lion*”), and maybe asking you the reason for it, (Tell them about the joy and the peace!) you'll be wondering where the lions are!