

Established in Righteousness

Part 2: Bold Faith!

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AGATHOS CHURCH
FEBRUARY 17TH, 2019

Full Text (for reading on your own)

Special Announcements (from about 0:00 - 17:00 in the recording)

- Kid's Protocol / Message from Peter
- New Sunday Service time for Main Church (starting 3/17/19)
- Guest minister (Daniel Ortiz!) on March 3rd, 2019!
- The Wave is slated to be open from 9-5, Monday - Friday if you'd like to work here!

From Insecurity to Confidence and from Confidence to Bold Faith!

Agathos is such a beautiful, precious body of believers. I love everyone's hunger for the Lord. I want to see MORE for each of you!

Megan had a word about a month ago that I think was really right. There is the old wine and there is the new wine. I studied luthery (guitar / violin making) about 10 years ago. Stradivarius made beautiful violins in Italy around the 1600s. Back then all luthiers were apprenticed. So Stradivarius was apprenticed by someone and then he would have apprenticed someone - a generational hand-off was going on.

From what I understand, the way it worked is Stradivarius did not build his violins (which are still famous) with the wood that he cut down. He built his violins with the wood that his master had cut down. Yet, while Stradivarius was building with the wood of a previous generation, he was gathering wood for the subsequent generation. Old wine. New wine. If you are trained in the Kingdom, you bring out of the cellar what is old and what's new!

We have a tendency to eat the fruit of yesterday's vintage that we sowed in faith, while not sowing for the next vintage for the next season.

I feel like there is a season of acceleration of some things. But that acceleration is going to require BOLD FAITH. Here's what I'm going after in this message: *I want insecurity to turn into confidence and I want confidence to turn into bold faith!*

I want to see everyone with an upgrade in their faith walk. If you are in a place of insecurity where things feel faulty, I want that to turn into confidence or assurity. Our English word “confidence” comes from the Latin “con” (with) and “fido” (faith). Confidence means to act with faith! We think that confidence means that we are confident in ourselves but scripturally confidence means to act according to faith!

“If you have faith as a mustard seed ...” you’ll see results!

From insecurity to confidence and from confidence to bold faith! Are you ready for an upgrade in your faith? There are things in your life that you’ve not yet had breakthrough with because you’ve not yet had faith for it.

Jesus said that if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will speak and mountains will be removed. So in areas of my life where the mountains haven’t been removed, do you know what the problem is? I don’t have faith there yet.

We complicate this thing.

He said your faith will work! He said your faith (if you even have it as small as a mustard seed) WILL move mountains. But if you don’t see the mountains moving yet, then we have to operate in greater faith.

Do you want an upgrade in your faith walk so that an area that hasn’t seen movement could see breakthrough?

If so, we have to know how to go about getting that upgrade. I’m here to tell you that **RIGHTEOUSNESS LEADS TO BOLD FAITH!**

Righteousness Leads to Faith!

Righteousness leads to bold faith! 1 John 3:21-22a says *“Beloved, if our **heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him ...**”* IF your heart does not condemn you - whatever we ask we receive from Him!

Galatians 5:6 (KJV) says *“For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but **faith which worketh by love**”* Knowing the love of the Father, knowing that you are RIGHT before Him, and not having a condemned heart causes faith to work in your life! Faith works by love! Notice what’s right before that ... if you focus on your flesh (circumcision) it’s antithetical to operating in faith.

Ephesians 6:23 *“Peace to the brethren, and **love with faith**, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”* Faith is a tag-along to the love of God! If you get a revelation of the love of God, it’s like the

handle of a red wagon and faith is like the red part of the wagon, it just tags right along with you. Faith comes right along with a revelation of the love of God.

You might say, “sure, but how?” I’ll just share a practical example ... If I believe I am in right relationship with my parents, I do not ask twice before I take a cookie out of the cookie jar. In other words, my right relationship with them causes me to believe that what they have is mine. By contrast if I think there is strife between me and them - if I think they are upset with me - I might tiptoe through their house and not touch anything. Yet the Father says to the son “Son, you are always with me.” In other words, we are in right relationship together, there is no separation between us.

Condemnation is what produces separation. The Father says to the son in Luke 15 “***Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours.***” Access to inheritance comes out of right relationship. We are co-heirs with Christ. You can’t be an heir to the things of God - the promises of God - except through Christ. All the promises of God are yes and amen IN HIM. If you are positioned in Christ, if you know who you are in Christ, the promises become yes and amen for you - you access what is yours in Him.

Do you want an upgrade in your faith walk?

Religion tells you to follow a God that does not answer your prayers. I am telling you to follow a God that wants to pour out upon you so abundantly ... He’s just hoping that you raise your faith level. I’m trying to help you lay aside, get out of the way, every hinderance to faith - to the end that insecurity would become confidence and that confidence would become bold faith! There’s a season of acceleration upon our body where things are going to move quickly and we cannot be looking to ourselves and creating insecurity by setting our eyes on our flesh, but instead we have to be looking to Him and stepping out in bold faith!

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” (Rom. 1:16) The epicenter of the power of God is in the message of what Jesus accomplished on the Cross.

We know that the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 6:23) So when you received the gift of God at salvation you received eternal life. But Romans 5:17 (the same letter) uses the phrase “the gift or righteousness.” So when you received salvation, if you’re born again in Christ Jesus, you’ve been made perfectly righteous! That’s part of the gift package you received at salvation. You’ve been made perfect (in right standing with God) by the blood of His Son Jesus.

Now, watch v. 17 “*For in it the righteousness of God is revealed **from faith to faith***” In the gospel, the righteousness of God is revealed to you FROM faith. It’s faith that causes you to access right standing with God. You got saved BY faith. **from faith to faith** ... The righteousness of God came

into your life FROM faith and your right standing in God leads TO faith! FROM faith TO faith! Your right standing with God came FROM faith and your right standing with God leads TO faith! When you know who you are in Him, it leads to faith!

Now if you think I am digging deep there, watch how clearly the next phrase communicates the same thing! *As it is written, “The just (righteous) shall live by faith.”* It’s a promise! When you know you’re righteous, you WILL live by faith!

If you have faith as a mustard seed, it’s going to work! We just have to lay things aside!

Righteousness Leads to BOLDNESS!

Last time I was talking about the ministry of Holy Spirit. In John 16 Jesus told us that when Holy Spirit comes He would convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. *“of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”* (Jn. 16:8-11) Jesus was talking about 3 convictions that Holy Spirit is going to bring.

The first is for those who have not yet received their Savior to whom Holy Spirit is saying “you have a sin problem, but there is a Savior who solved your sin problem; receive the Savior.” That’s not what Holy Spirit is saying to believers. After you’ve received the Savior, Holy Spirit is not saying you have a sin problem, He is instead convicting you of righteous standing before God. That’s the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

I also shared from 2 Corinthians 3:7-11 which offers a comparison between the old covenant which was written on stone and ministered condemnation (the need for a Savior) and the New Covenant which is called the ministry of the Spirit and the ministry of RIGHTEOUSNESS! Holy Spirit is ministering *righteousness* to believers.

Now let’s also look at verse 12 of 2 Corinthians 3. I’m looking for us to not just get to faith (confidence before God) but to BOLD FAITH!

*“For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, **the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory ... Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech.**”* Since we have such hope ... what hope is Paul referring to? The ministry of righteousness! “Since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech!”

Boldness comes from the ministry of righteousness. When you listen to Holy Spirit ministering righteousness to you, it produces boldness in you!

Now, what's the nature of boldness? Is boldness something you put on? Have you met "bold" people before that seem like they are about to break everything. Is that boldness? Is boldness something that you work up to? Something you turn up or stir up inside yourself?

I looked in the Oxford American Dictionary and here's what it said: Boldness is the ability to take risks; being confident and courageous - so confident as **to suggest a lack of shame ...**"

Boldness = a lack of condemnation.

Boldness is a lack of condemnation. Boldness is not something to press into, it's a rest that you step in to!

When Jesus came to live inside of you as a born again believer, He did not get rid of His faith before He took up residence in you! He did not pack His faith up in a suitcase and say "I'm not taking that with Me" before He came to live in you! No, no no! When Jesus came to you, you now have the faith of Jesus Christ on the inside of you! The same faith that caused Jesus to perform so many miracles, and speak so plainly so many times to even controversial things is now in you! John said that if he tried to recount all Jesus did that there would probably not be enough space in the world for all that He did! That boldness IS what's on the inside of you!

Have you heard of mold inhibitors? Bags of cheese have them.

Condemnation is the great faith inhibitor!

Condemnation is the great faith inhibitor. You may say "well, Peter, faith comes by hearing the Word of God." Yes that's how it comes, but I'm saying it leaves by condemnation. When you've heard the Word of God, if you're not walking in faith with it, one of the elements that can go on is condemnation is causing you to speak doubt over the very seeds of faith that you're sowing ... not because you don't believe the promises of God; you just don't believe you're qualified for them.

Condemnation is a great faith inhibitor.

If you are sowing the seeds of faith into your heart and cultivating those seeds and you're not seeing explosive results in the areas that you are cultivating, I would venture to guess that what's been happening is that you've been taking out a can of Round-up and actually killing your seeds with words of doubt from your mouth that are coming from condemnation in your heart.

Boldness does not come from trying to put something on. It's from taking something off - the shroud of condemnation!

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

Boldness IS no condemnation. No condemnation produces BOLD FAITH! The righteous WILL live by faith! The righteousness of God is revealed FROM faith TO faith!

What's the Solution to Condemnation?

So what's the solution to condemnation?

Let's look at Romans 8:1 - one of the most classic verses on condemnation. I read this verse for years. You ever have one of those verses that you read for 10 years "I believe it, but I don't see it yet!"

You have to sometimes see differently. Our eyes can be blinded. 2 Corinthians 3 says that if the law has been preached to you, a veil lies over your heart, but when Christ is revealed to you, the veil is removed so that you can see revelation!

"*There is therefore now ...*" this is for NOW. Not tomorrow. Not some other day. "I know I don't experience it yet, but I see it." If you don't see this mountain of condemnation moving YET, then you are not operating in faith about it YET. This is a NOW promise. It is possible - right NOW - that you could experience "no condemnation" if you'd step into faith.

But we have to realize something. There is a stipulation in this verse. "*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus ...*" If you are born again, are you in Christ Jesus? Yes! So, let's look at the last part of the verse: "***who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.***"

I want to dive into the second part of this verse, because if you've not had breakthrough in this verse, that's your problem. And if you are not having breakthrough in areas of faith where you are sowing seeds of faith I would venture to say that sometimes it's actually condemnation that's sabotaging the promises of your Father in your life.

Have you ever been in a situation before where you KNOW (in your head) that someone is not angry with you but you can't help but feel that they are angry with you. How you feel doesn't change the reality, but it is coloring your experience.

"*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus ...*" That is a promise! Jesus' blood paid it all but that might not be the reality that you walk in - and boldness comes from no condemnation!

The more you know you are and the more clearly you know who you are, the greater boldness that you will walk in!

“...who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” I can hear it now: “there it is brother ... if you sin, you’re going to be condemned! Don’t sin and you won’t be condemned!” Yes, we’re going to sign him up for a theology class ...

Walk according to the flesh vs. walk according to the Spirit. This whole section keeps speaking about that. Verse 3 says *“what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son.”* Verse 4 says *“the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”* Verse 5 says *“those who live according to the flesh **set their minds on the things of the flesh**, but those who live according to the Spirit, **the things of the Spirit.**”*

Here’s a principle of scripture interpretation: throughout scripture God gives definitions. If you find the definition, it can link up and open up a whole set of scriptures for you. For instance, in Proverbs it says that a “fool trusts in his own heart.” Once we have that definitional descriptor, when you are reading Proverbs you start to realize that “trusting in your own heart” is a key element of what a fool is - they don’t want input from God and they don’t want input from others.

Parents - guide that right out of your children. If you notice that resistance to input, you are noticing a man who is setting himself up for isolation and isolation leads to deception. Adults, govern that right out of your heart. If you do not want input in an area, you operating in pride because you’ve placed your identity in what YOU’VE come up with and you’ve now stepped into being a fool.

So, we look for definitions. Here it is *“those who live according to the flesh **set their minds on the things of the flesh**, but those who live according to the Spirit, **the things of the Spirit.**”* It goes on to say that that to be *“carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”*

*“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, **who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.**”*

Do you know that condemnation has a precursor?

You have to do something in your thinking to open yourself up to condemnation.

Do you know what you have to do? You have to set your mind on your flesh. There is no condemnation if your mind is not set on your flesh.

If you are in Christ Jesus (born again) why don’t experience “no condemnation” all the time? For the mind that is set on the flesh is death and the mind that is set on the Spirit is life and peace. But what does it mean to set your mind on the things of the flesh?

I'll just say it to you really plain: You looking to your performance, your strength, your might, your ability, what you've done, your obedience is a mind that is set on the flesh. You looking to HIS performance, HIS obedience, what HE accomplished is a mind that is set on the Spirit!

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who look to HIM and HIS performance, but there is condemnation (not in reality, but in experience) for those that set their mind on the flesh. Before you can get condemned as a believer, you have to look to yourself!

The enemy does not want the sons of God to be revealed to the world. He is using condemnation and believers' willingness to look at their flesh - their obedience - to keep God's children from stepping into bold faith! So let's now look at one of the most classic sections of scripture on spiritual warfare.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 will hopefully open up for you now. What we have been talking about in Romans 8 is the starting point of spiritual warfare in your life. *"For though we walk in the flesh* (in other words we live here on earth), ***we do not war according to (or based on the strength of) the flesh.*** *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal* (not based on our own strength or might) ***but mighty in God*** *for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God* (the knowing of God - the no condemnation, no separation relationship you get to have with God), ***bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.***"

When you have negative, condemning, and even demonic thoughts ... who's obedience to you take them to see? Your obedience? No! The obedience of Christ!

All spiritual warfare starts with this question: our strength or God's strength?

Right before the armor of God in Ephesians 6 we see *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."* The verse right before we hear of the armor of God we see that we are to be "Strong in the LORD and in the power of HIS might." Before Paul even gets to the specifics of the armor of God to put on, he's saying "settle this issue in your heart ... your strength or HIS strength? HIS obedience or your obedience?"

If that's not settled you are open to condemnation and therefore open to the enemy reeking havoc in your life instead of you reeking havoc in the enemy's camp!

I want y'all to go from insecurity (which comes from standing on something that's insecure - which is YOUR obedience! Your obedience is NOT sure! But the promise is meant to be sure BY FAITH!). I want you to go from insecurity to confidence and if you are already in a place of confidence, I want

you to go to **bold faith** ... and you are going to step into boldness of faith by taking off condemnation! Condemnation is the great faith inhibitor.

We're going to start bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

I'll end with Romans 5:19. I do so much "business" with this verse and the truth that's in it: *Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.'*

Who was the one man who was disobedient? Adam.

Who was the one Man who was obedient? That's JESUS!

Let me ask you this: If you are in Christ Jesus, have you received the gift of righteousness? Two verses before (Rom. 5:17) it just said that you've received the gift of righteousness. The question is "how did you get it???" Who's obedience has made you righteous?

It is JESUS' obedience that has made you righteous!

Now, how many men's obedience made you righteous? ONE Man's!

Does that leave any room for your obedience to be part of the equation? Does it say by 1.4 men's obedience you were made righteous? By 2 men's obedience you were made righteous? By One Man's obedience plus a little bit of effort on your part you've been made righteous?

Why are you inserting yourself into the equation of righteousness?

Condemnation cannot come to you until you insert yourself into that equation.

Boldness cannot be held back from you when you have no condemnation.

WHO's obedience? Christ's! How many people's obedience? ONE!

And I've got news for you ... "you are NOT the ONE!"

Two Pastoral Prescriptions and Addressing a Nagging Question

FROM PETER: Pastoral Prescription # 1 Going from CONFIDENCE —> BOLD FAITH!

I have an assignment for you. Two weeks - a pastoral prescription to be taken as needed!

Every time you measure yourself ... when you measure your obedience, you are setting your mind on your flesh. This might be mind-bending but even Paul said (1 Cor. 4:3) that he does not judge

himself. He said he wasn't aware of anything against himself ... if he was aware of something he would have addressed it. Yet he said he judges nothing before its time because God will judge at the end. If you are judging your flesh, you are setting your mind on the things of the flesh and THAT'S what's giving an in-road to condemnation in your life.

Here's your pastoral prescription (as needed) this phrase: "I am NOT the ONE."

You want to step from insecurity to confidence or from confidence to bold faith, remove condemnation - and you do that by not being the ONE!

FROM ERIN: Pastoral Prescription # 2 Going from INSECURITY —> CONFIDENCE

"I grew up in the church, got saved when I was 10 and have been in the church my entire life. I STRUGGLED to receive this message (when I first heard it). So, this "prescription" is for some of you, not for all of you reading:

Listen to this entire sermon series. <http://agathos.org/sermons/topic/gospel-grace>

The above listed sermon series is literally like a round of antibiotics. You have to do the whole thing. So it's a commitment. This sermon series changed my life. I am not exaggerating. This sermon series changed my life and it did it chink by chink by chink by chink. If you've had teaching that isn't complete in the gospel of grace then there are missing stones in your foundation and messages like what we've just read don't quite land because you have missing stones in your foundation. So if that resonates with you (the anti-biotic prescription) you must do the WHOLE thing - it will change your life.

FROM MEGAN: Addressing a Nagging Question

Basically the whole sum-up of what Pete is saying today is "look to Christ." This message is opening up that phrase. It's looking to Him!

If there is a nagging question in your mind "but how do you live righteously?" That question will come up because we are to be righteous as He is righteous and we are to be holy as He is holy.

Ephesians 5:1 says "Therefore be imitators of God as dear children." This is the thing: you cannot imitate Someone that you are not looking at! If we are looking at ourselves then you don't see Who you are to imitate. You look at Christ. He is the ONE Who is holy. He is the ONE Who has done it. It is HIS righteousness. We are to imitate Him, but we can't imitate Him when we look at ourselves.

So any nagging question of "but how do I then perform righteously in my life out of that?" I am saying "if we look to Him we will become like Him!" As Paul said in Galatians 5:16 "*I say then: Walk in the Spirit (look upon Jesus and not your performance), and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*"