

# Summary

In this sermon for Local Church's second anniversary, guest speaker Tim discusses the importance of boldness in faith when facing opposition. Using the story of the man born blind from John 9, he explores how this man stood firm in his testimony about Jesus despite intense questioning from religious leaders. Tim emphasizes that while standing for truth may lead to opposition, even from family, we have the Holy Spirit's power within us to remain courageous. He highlights that while others may try to redefine truth or mistreat believers, our personal testimony of transformation through Christ cannot be disputed.

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather today to discuss boldness in our faith, we ask for Your guidance and wisdom. Open our hearts to receive what You want to teach us through this discussion. Help us to recognize the power of Your Holy Spirit within us, giving us courage when we face opposition for our faith. May our time together strengthen our resolve to stand firm in the truth of who You are and what You've done in our lives. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Ice Breaker

Share about a time when you stood up for something you believed in, even though it wasn't the popular opinion. How did that make you feel?

## Key Verses

1. 2 Timothy 1:7-8
2. John 9:25
3. 1 Peter 3:15
4. John 15:18-20
5. 1 John 4:4

## Questions

1. The sermon mentions that even family members might not support us when we stand for our faith. Have you ever experienced this? How did you handle it?
2. What does it mean that 'the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline'? How have you experienced this in your life?
3. The blind man simply stated, 'I was blind but now I see.' What is your simple testimony that no one can argue with?
4. How do you respond when someone tries to 'redefine truth' in a conversation about faith?
5. The sermon warns against getting 'snarky' when defending our faith. Why is gentleness and respect so important when sharing our beliefs?

6. How does knowing that the Holy Spirit is both alongside us and within us give you confidence to stand firm in your faith?
7. What areas of your life do you find it most difficult to be bold about your faith? Why do you think that is?
8. The sermon ended with a story about a father standing up for his son. How does this illustrate our relationship with God when we face opposition?

## Life Application

This week, identify one situation where you typically feel hesitant to express your faith. It might be at work, with certain friends, or in specific social settings. Pray specifically for the Holy Spirit's power and courage in that situation. Then, look for an opportunity to naturally share your personal testimony - not with snarkiness or aggression, but with gentleness and respect. Remember, no one can argue with your story of how Jesus has changed you. Journal about what happens and be prepared to share with the group next time.

## Key Takeaways

1. When standing for truth, even family members may not support you, but God remains faithful.
2. People may try to redefine truth when they can't refute it, but we must remain firm in biblical truth.
3. Responding with gentleness and respect is crucial when sharing our faith, as snarkiness rarely helps.
4. Your personal testimony of transformation through Christ is powerful and cannot be disputed.
5. The Holy Spirit gives us divine power (dunamis) to be bold in our faith when facing opposition.

## Ending Prayer

Lord God, thank You for the reminder that we don't stand in our own strength but in the power of Your Holy Spirit within us. When we face opposition for our faith, help us remember that greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world. Give us the courage to share our stories of transformation with gentleness and respect, knowing that our testimonies are powerful witnesses to Your work in our lives. May we walk boldly this week, not in arrogance, but in the confident assurance that You stand with us and empower us through every challenge. In Jesus' name, amen.