



Outward Church: Outward Courage

Acts 4:1-22

Fear of man -> inward fear

Fear of man -> inward fear

Fear of God -> outward courage

Proverbs 1:17 (NIV)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Acts 4:18-20 (NIV) 18 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! 20 As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”



Outward Courage

1. Fear of harm / Hope in the resurrection.



Outward Courage

1. Fear of harm / Hope in the resurrection.
2. Fear of man's authority / Hope in Christ's authority.

Acts 4:10-11 (NIV) 10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11 Jesus is

“the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the cornerstone.’”



Outward Courage

1. Fear of harm / Hope in the resurrection.
2. Fear of man's authority / Hope in Christ's authority.
3. Fear of loss / Hope in lives saved.

Acts 4:4 (NIV) But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

“How did you get to know about Christianity for the first time?” ...Not a single one of them reported that they had done so through the media or reading the Bible. Nor were preachers of much impact—only 3 percent [...] gave that as the source of their initial awareness. Instead, 90 percent had their initial contact with Christianity through interpersonal ties: through acquaintances, family members, or neighbors. - *A Star in the East* (p. 105)



Outward Courage

1. Fear of harm / Hope in the resurrection.
2. Fear of man's authority / Hope in Christ's authority.
3. Fear of loss / Hope in lives saved.
4. Fear of intellect / Hope in the Spirit.

Acts 4:13 (NIV) Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

Luke 12:11-12 (NIV) 11 “When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, 12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

*Faith in Jesus can transform
inward fear into outward courage.*

Acts 4:12 (NIV) And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

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