

PART 1

YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES

LESSON 1

THE REAL YOU



Our biblical beliefs are under full-scale attack, and it is time to take a biblical stand because history teaches that there can be no neutrality when it comes to war. Hostile aggression demands decisive action. For us to be victorious, we must know ourselves and the One who has enlisted us into this bold faith.

Called to Take a Bold Stand, page 14

Taking a bold stand requires that we be informed. This means having a clear understanding of who we are in Christ. When we realize how our Lord has transformed and equipped us, we will come to know the resources God has given us for waging spiritual battle. And the better we understand what the Lord desires of us, the more effectively we will be able to respond with wisdom and conviction to attacks upon our beliefs.

Yes, this means preparation. It means doing what is necessary so we are ready to face whatever challenges come our way. The apostle Paul was forthright about this. In 2 Timothy 2:3, he wrote, “You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”

The word “hardship” speaks of pain, suffering, and spiritual warfare. These are inevitable because we live in a hostile, evil world. However, Scripture repeatedly reminds us that God rewards those who are faithful to Him. In 2 Thessalonians 3:3, we read that “the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.” What an incredible promise! God says He will care for us and protect us.

Though we can expect hardship, we have no reason to be fearful. God has equipped us and will sustain us. He hasn't left us in the dark about how we can take a bold stand. He has lovingly given us an abundance of instructions and encouragement, all of which we should take to heart.

GROWING BOLDER

As you answer the following questions, you'll want to have your Bible in hand, as well as your copy of the book *Called to Take a Bold Stand*.

1. What are the three great spiritual enemies of every Christian? (See page 13.)
2. What are the two primary goals of these three enemies? (See page 13.)
3. Why do you think identifying the enemy is such an important aspect of being effective in spiritual battle?
4. On page 14 of *Called to Take a Bold Stand*, we read that "hostile aggression demands decisive action." Why do you think this is the case?

YOU ARE CALLED TO STAND

5. What does it mean to take a bold stand? (See page 15.)

6. What happens when we do anything less than taking a bold stand? (See page 15.)

7. What is the challenge for every Christ-follower today? (See page 15.)

8. Why should we say yes to this challenge? (See page 16.)

9. On page 16 of *Called to Take a Bold Stand*, we read that “what you do now matters in eternity.” What types of things do you think count for eternity? What types of things do you think are worthless from an eternal perspective?

YOU ARE IN CHRIST

10. On page 16 of *Called to Take a Bold Stand*, we read, “For better or worse, people will make assessments about us based on what they observe regarding our Christianity.” Has your faith changed you? How would the people around you answer that question?

11. When it comes to letting your faith change you, where do you see room for growth?

YOU HAVE A NEW NATURE

12. What does the title *Christian* mean? (See page 17.)

13. Why is our faith precious, according to 2 Peter 1:1? (See page 18.)

14. On page 19 of *Called to Take a Bold Stand*, we read, “When your faith is in Jesus Christ, you are hidden in Him.” What do you think it looks like for a Christian to be “hidden” in Christ?

15. Read Galatians 2:20. How does the apostle Paul describe what it means to be hidden in Christ?

16. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. If you call yourself a Christian yet there has been little to no change in your life, why should you be concerned?

You’ve Been Transformed

17. What promise did Jesus give in Acts 1:4-5—a promise that applies to every believer?

18. What do the following passages say about you as a Christian?

a. 1 Corinthians 6:19—

b. Ephesians 4:30—

You've Been Set Free

19. How did Paul, Timothy, Epapharas, James, Peter, and Jude see themselves first and foremost? (See page 24.)

20. The English word translated “bondservant” comes from the Greek word *doulos*, or “slave.” As those who are bondservants of Christ, what attitude should we have toward our master? (See page 26.)

21. From an earthly perspective, the term *slave* is negative. But from a biblical perspective, why do you think it is a positive thing to view ourselves as bondservants or slaves of Christ?

22. As a bondservant, Christ is a model of what it means to live sacrificially. What can we learn from His example?

YOUR TIME IS NOW

23. Psalm 90:12 says, “Teach us to number our days, that we might gain a heart of wisdom.” What are some specific ways you can ask God to help you to number your days wisely?

PUTTING YOUR BOLD STAND INTO ACTION

24. On page 23 of *Called to Take a Bold Stand*, we read,

By God’s grace, with the Holy Spirit’s help, you are different from where you started in Christ, and you’re bringing things like pride, lust, or anger under the control of the Spirit. You are growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and advancing in your faith. Second Corinthians 3:18 announces that you are “being transformed...from glory to glory,” but this transformation isn’t a one-and-done event. It is an ongoing and observable work of the Holy Spirit.

God’s work of transforming your life is an ongoing process. In what ways has He been bringing about change in you recently?

25. Philippians 2:5-7 says, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.”

