

Title: Linkup II - coming boldly
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Bold = confident & daring, courageous

Boldness is not personality – we receive boldness when we are connected to God

What is one of the biggest enemies of boldness? Condemnation

Condemnation – how does it work?

The devil is the accuser. He is an expert in condemning you, always pointing out your faults and shortcomings. Even when we do things right, the accuser will say “it’s not good enough.

How do you identify condemnation?

- You feel disconnected from God
- You are self focused and not Jesus focused
- The fruit is not good

1 John 3:20&21 (AMP)

Whenever our hearts in [*tormenting*] self-accusation make us feel guilty and condemn us, He is above and greater than our consciences (our hearts), and He knows (perceives and understands) everything [*nothing is hidden from Him*]. And, beloved, if our consciences (our hearts) do not accuse us [*if they do not make us feel guilty and condemn us*], we have confidence (complete assurance and boldness) before God...

- Condemnation takes a fact and wraps it in a lie and presents it to us as the truth.
- Condemnation takes us from relationship to religion, where we feel we have to perform ALL the time to be accepted.
- Boldness takes us from religion to relationship where we can come to Jesus and He covers all our mistakes and weaknesses.

Romans 8:1 (NLT)

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 4:15&16

For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to understand and sympathise and have a shared feeling with our weaknesses and infirmities...Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favour to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [*for our failures*] and find grace to help in good time for every need [*appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it*].

Our battle

Efp 6 – Our battle is not against flesh and blood – there is a battle to disconnect us from God, to steal our time and intimacy with the Lord – in the natural and in the spiritual.

2 Cor 10:4,5

For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...

How do we warfare against distractions, emotions, stress, fear, condemnation, guilt?

1. **Helmet of salvation/Breastplate of righteousness**

Isaiah 61:10

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness.

We start by focussing on what Jesus did for us. He saved us, he delivered us, He cleansed us, He removed our sin as far as the east is from the west. We don't focus on our own performance, but on what Jesus did for us.

2. **Belt of truth**

John 8:32

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

The truth is that all of us fall short of the glory of God and that is fine as long as you come to Jesus.

3. **Sword of the Spirit** – the word of God

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God *is* living and powerful.

We need to recognise the lie and fight with the truth – found in God's word.

4. **Shield of faith**

2 Cor 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight

We can't trust our emotions. We don't have to fix ourselves before we come to God, we just come in faith.

Practical:

- Get yourself a **notebook**
 - write down all **distractions** when you come to God
 - write down the **promises** that God has given you and meditate on that