

Beat: News

## Righteous Are Bold As A Lion

### Sin Makes People Cowards

Proddatur, Andhra Pradesh, 11.07.2015, 14:40 Time

**USPA NEWS** - "The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion. Proverbs 28:1"<sup>2</sup>. The great men in history, God's great men, always had pure consciences. They could go boldly in God's power against any enemies or circumstances.

A clear conscience is a precious and wonderful thing. Its value cannot be measured on earth. Without one, your soul nervously looks around to see who is watching or coming to get you. With one, you fear no evil. You can take on any opponent. Why be afraid? You know you are righteous; you know the Lord is with you.

What a huge difference! Sin makes men cowards. The wicked fear mere shadows and run away. They dread judgment in this world and the next, much like the damned angels (Matt 8:29). The terrible God torments their souls with doubt and fear (Job 15:20-25).

They imagine enemies and hide. They are easily intimidated. Their hearts fear this is the time they will be caught and exposed, punished and judged. For courage, they drown their conscience "" with noise, man's praise, activity, false religion, alcohol, or drugs.

The righteous fear nothing. Godliness makes great men with courage. They are like the fearless lion, which does not turn away from any. It is able to sleep in the open as easily as in a thicket, for its great confidence and boldness.

Greatness is before us. Do we see it? Believe it; understand it; seize it. We do not leave this proverb until we grasp it in both hands, and never let it go. A pure conscience will make us great. We will fear nothing. The Lord will be our sword and shield. No enemy will stand before us. No trial will expose or condemn us. Greatness is ours!

The LORD put a candle in each person to search and judge his thoughts and actions. It is called the conscience. This internal light from God judges each man's actions as wrong, or excuses them as right. The Lord will chase you with this fearful enemy inside, if you sin against Him.

When wicked Pharisees tried to trap Jesus with the woman taken in adultery, He asked for the first stone to be cast by any man without sin (John 8:1-11). From the oldest to the youngest, their consciences condemned them, and they left Jesus and the woman alone.

Could David have faced Goliath with a guilty conscience? How? With sin on his conscience, he would have had no confidence in God's deliverance, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment. But his heart and mind were pure before the Lord. He would not have feared, if the whole Philistine army had fought him.

The great men in history, God's great men, always had pure consciences. They could go boldly in God's power against any enemies or circumstances. They feared no man. They knew, if put on trial, nothing wrong could be laid against them. There was no weakness in their faith; they knew the Lord was with them, not against them.

Paul went on trial without fear of any man accusing him of wrongdoing (Acts 23:1). No threat of danger moved him. Daniel and three friends had no fear of death threats. And Moses did not fear the wrath of the king. These are but a few of the exploits done by those who did know their God (Dan 11:32).

But Cain, the profane murderer, was filled with morbid terror of invisible danger (Gen 4:13-15). He responded like his father, Adam, who trembled in fear amidst the Garden's trees, when God merely called his name. The consciences of Joseph's brethren were still chasing them 22 years after selling him into slavery (Gen 42:21). But Joseph, though falsely charged and convicted of attempted rape, could stand boldly before Pharaoh and his father as savior of Egypt and his family. Glory!

If you are not as confident and bold as you should be, humble yourself before the great God now, Confess and repudiate your sins! He is faithful and just to forgive, and by His Spirit and grace He can restore your conscience and courage. Do it now, dear reader. Do not let this opportunity for greatness in the sight of God and men slip away from you.

Pure David wrote, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" [?] (Ps 139:23-24). With David and Paul, exercise yourself to always have a conscience void of offence before God and men (Acts 24:16). Exercise yourself toward this goal today, by prayer and self-examination before the throne of God.

**Article online:**

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-4481/righteous-are-bold-as-a-lion.html>

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V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDSStV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Doruvu Paul Jagan Babu

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