

## PARRESIA

### *Prayer*

This morning I want to talk about a biblical terms that I believe will bring insight and guidance into your walk of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. This morning this sermon will open up the Greek word "Parresia" to you.

Let's start with a definition of the word:

- Freedom in speaking, unreservedness in speech
- Openly, frankly, without concealment
- Without ambiguity or circumlocution (long way to explain something)
- Without the use of figures of speech or comparisons
- Free and fearless confidence, cheerful courage, boldness
- The deportment by which one becomes conspicuous (stand out clearly) or secures publicity

This morning how many of us know that we are to have "Parresia" in our communication with others about the Lord?

Now... This morning how many of HAVE "Parresia" in our communication with others about the Lord?

Did you know that in the New Testament there are 31 occurrences of this word in scripture. This morning I would like to look at the context in which this word is used and see if we can draw some conclusions about our approach to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **KJV Version – 31 occurrences in the New Testament**

- Mark 8:32: "And he spake that saying **openly**. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him"
- John 7:4 "For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known **openly**. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world."
- John 7:13 "Howbeit no man spake **openly** of him for fear of the Jews"
- John 7:26: "But, lo, he speaketh **boldly**, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ."
- John 10:24: "Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us **plainly**."
- John 11:14: "Then said Jesus unto them **plainly**, Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him."
- John 11:54 "Jesus therefore walked no more **openly** among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples"

- John 16:25 "These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you **plainly** of the Father."
- John 16:29 "His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou **plainly**, and speakest no proverb."
- John 18:20 "Jesus answered him, I spake **openly** to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing."
- Acts 2:29 "Men and brethren, let me **freely** speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day"
- Acts 4:13 "Now when they saw the **boldness** of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."
- Acts 4:29 "And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all **boldness** they may speak thy word,"
- Acts 4:31 "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with **boldness**."
- Acts 28:31 "Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all **confidence**, no man forbidding him."
- 2 Corinthians 3:12 "Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great **plainness of speech**:"
- 2 Corinthians 7:4 "Great is my **boldness of speech** toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation"
- Ephesians 3:12 "In whom we have **boldness** and access with confidence by the faith of him"
- Ephesians 6:19 " And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth **boldly**, to make known the mystery of the gospel "
- Philippians 1:20 " According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all **boldness**, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death."
- Colossians 2:15" And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them **openly**, triumphing over them in it "
- 1 Timothy 3:13" For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great **boldness** in the faith which is in Christ Jesus"
- Philemon 1:8 " Wherefore, though I might be much **bold** in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient "
- Hebrews 3:6 " But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the **confidence** and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end "
- Hebrews 4:16 " Let us therefore come **boldly** unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need"
- Hebrews 10:19 " Having therefore, brethren, **boldness** to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus "
- Hebrews 10:35 " Cast not away therefore your **confidence**, which hath great recompence of reward "
- 1 John 2:28 " And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have **confidence**, and not be ashamed before him at his coming "

- 1 John 3:21 " Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we **confidence** toward God."
- 1 John 4:17 " Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have **boldness** in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world "
- 1 John 5:14 " And this is the **confidence** that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us,"

So what conclusions can we draw from these scriptures? Let's start with some simple ones first.

We are to speak:

- Openly
- Boldly
- Plainly
- Freely
- Confidently

We are to be:

- Open
- Bold
- Free
- Confident

Now if we dig even deeper into the word "Parresia" we find that it is made up of two other words: "Pas meaning "All" and Rthesis which is a word that means a proverb or statement quoted with resolve"

So the root concept here is to speak with bold resolve leaving a witness that something deserves to be remembered and taken seriously.

This is my prayer... That we can all speak with love freely and with a cheerful confidence.

Now, I have mentioned the great commission many times and I have related that we are all called. This morning I want to emphasize the importance of the churches mission of evangelization. People cannot find God without his church. I have heard this fallacy time and time again. We are called to be the body of Christ and although we have an individual relationship with Jesus, we are also called to a body relationship with other believers.

Let me illustrate.

A pastor went over to a man's home for a visit. This man believed that he could have a fulfilling relationship with God, but not be a part of his church. Well the minister

arrived at the house and the man invited him to sit by his coal fire and have some tea. The minister agreed. For a few moments they sat amiably in silence. The minister then reached out and took up the fireplace tongs, he pointed at the man and reached into the fire and removed a piece of burning coal that was red hot. He held it apart from the fire for a few moments and it turned black. The man got the message and was in church the following week.

Now why is it so hard to speak to others about Jesus why is it so difficult to openly speak about the gospel of Jesus? Why is it so hard to boldly tell others of our relationship with him? Why aren't we confident and free with our faith? Why does it seem so complex?

Clearly we are called to be bold and confident, what has happened to make us feel insecure and shy about Jesus?

There are a few reasons; here are some of them:

- 1) We fear rejection
- 2) We fear humiliation
- 3) We fear that we don't have enough knowledge
- 4) We fear saying the wrong thing
- 5) We fear others knowing about our faith and then judging us by the moral standard of God, by which we all fail
- 6) We fear that we are not living a life holy and acceptable to God
- 7) We fear that we are unworthy

Shouldn't we be filled with the joy of evangelizing in the anticipation of spreading the good news of Jesus regardless of persecution or success?

This leads me to another Greek word: "Parousia"

This word means "Presence" more specifically it means "presence after absence" it can also mean "arrival" but not "return" unless given by context. This word has three connotations (meanings) for us then:

- 1) It can in specific contexts refer to the return of our Savior Jesus
  - a. 1 Corinthians 15:23,17
  - b. 1 Thessalonians 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23
  - c. 2 Thessalonians 2:1,8
  - d. James 5 7,8
  - e. 2 Peter 1:16; 3:4,12
  - f. 1 John 2:28
- 2) It can refer to the arrival of the anti-Christ
  - a. 2 Thessalonians 2:9
- 3) It can refer to Presence after arrival

So to clarify this "Parousia" thing we can say that the parousia was the incarnation of Christ on earth. His Parousia will be his second coming.

Now to the aspect I want to focus on...

Prior to the parousia (incarnation of the Lord), the Holy Spirit acted in the world only as the spiritual presence of Christ in the world. After Christ's death and resurrection, Jesus told us that he would send us the Holy Spirit. Which happened at Pentecost. This presence after absence is the manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

So what does the Holy Spirit give us in the context of parresia

(Luke 4:16-21; Isaiah 61:1-2)

Later at synagogue, Jesus told everyone:

*The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on Him. He began by saying to them, "Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled*

You see the Holy Spirit commissions us for ministry. If you have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal saviour then you have the Holy Spirit inside of you working to bring about the likeness of Christ within you. When you are ready, you are baptized in the Holy Spirit and you are commissioned into the ministry of making disciples. You are effectively empowered for witness.

When this happens:

- You are equipped
- You have all the tools you need
- You are ready

Anyone can talk about Jesus, and that is awesome, God's word won't return to him void... but to have the anointing of the Holy Spirit with you, leading you, guiding you, empowering you with the gifts of the Spirit. It's a whole new league of witness.

The commissioning of the Holy Spirit is really an empowering for ministry. At Pentecost the first evidence that they had been baptized in the Holy Spirit was that they were speaking in tongues. It is because of that precedent that we look for speaking in tongues as the initial evidence of this baptism. There are additional evidences.

In fact the gifts of the spirit can be broken down into three categories each of which has three sub-categories:

- Gifts of Knowing
  - Words of Wisdom
  - Words of Knowledge
  - Discerning of Spirits
- Gifts of Doing
  - Faith for Miracles
  - Healings
  - Works of Power
- Gifts of Speaking
  - Tongues
  - Interpretation
  - Prophecy

My friends we are all called to that great commission, to evangelization, to telling others the good news of Jesus Christ. If we want to be bold, confident, free we need to be open and embrace that which the Holy Spirit provides. He empowers us for ministry.

We have learned that we are to speak and act with Parrisia today, we have learned how the parousia of the Holy Spirit empowers us to do so. To overcome our frailties and weakness in this area, there is but one solution, we need to embrace the Holy Spirit so that we can fulfill our mandate as children of the king. He empowers us and commissions us.

So if we:

- 1) We fear rejection – we accept his acceptance
- 2) We fear humiliation – we embrace that we are his special treasure
- 3) We fear that we don't have enough knowledge – We study and rely on the Holy Spirit
- 4) We fear saying the wrong thing – We trust God
- 5) We fear others knowing about our faith and then judging us by the moral standard of God, by which we all fail – We need to change our behaviors and live right before God. We need to press in to him for the strength to achieve this.
- 6) We fear that we are not living a life holy and acceptable to God – Accept his grace and forgiveness
- 7) We fear that we are unworthy – Know that Christ has made you worthy

Parresia – a sermon on one word of the bible. Perhaps you begin to understand how vast a resource this wonderful guide in-breathed by the Holy Spirit is.

Here is the challenge...

- Be Open
- Be Bold
- Be Free
- Be Confident
- And in everything be loving