

# Bold Vision

## Contents:

- Sermon Synopsis
- Sermon Highlights
- Scripture Verses
- Quotes from this episode
- Bible Study – for personal or group study

## Sermon Synopsis

This episode of World Impact explores the theme of bold vision through the lens of Oral Roberts University and its commitment to developing Spirit-empowered leaders. Filmed across key locations on campus, including the Hall of Mirrors and the Learning Resource Center, the program connects the founding vision of Oral Roberts with the university's present-day mission. Dr. Billy Wilson outlines ORU's five foundational outcomes—spiritual integrity, personal resilience, intellectual pursuit, global engagement, and bold vision—showing how each contributes to shaping students who are prepared to lead with purpose. The episode highlights the university's international growth, diverse student body, and expanding facilities as evidence of a culture that encourages students to think beyond limitations and pursue meaningful goals.

The program presents bold vision not as abstract inspiration but as something developed through discipline, faith, and opportunity. Real-world examples are used to illustrate this principle, including the engineering vision behind the Golden Gate Bridge and the life of Jim Stovall, who turned personal loss into a global media ministry. On campus, faculty research, entrepreneurial initiatives, and creative technologies such as extended reality production demonstrate how students are equipped to apply vision in practical ways. Scripture, including Proverbs 28:1, frames boldness as a defining characteristic of those who trust in God, emphasizing that courage grows from spiritual confidence rather than personality alone.

Biblical narratives further develop this theme by examining individuals who initially struggled to see themselves as God saw them. The episode revisits Gideon in Judges 6, whose self-doubt contrasts with God's declaration of him as a "mighty warrior." It also considers Jeremiah, who questioned his calling due to his youth, and the apostle Paul, whose vision in Acts 16 redirected his ministry toward new regions. These accounts demonstrate how vision often begins with

divine perspective rather than personal confidence, and how obedience reshapes both identity and direction.

The episode concludes by encouraging viewers to align their self-understanding with God's perspective and to take practical steps toward fulfilling that vision. Dr. Wilson addresses generational hesitations, particularly among younger audiences, and emphasizes that boldness is cultivated through the work of the Holy Spirit. Initiatives such as Empowered21's Everyone Initiative are presented as avenues for global engagement, while the broader message centers on recognizing and acting upon the vision God places in each life. The episode presents bold vision as a combination of spiritual insight, disciplined action, and willingness to move forward despite uncertainty.

## Sermon Highlights

- God gives destiny-sized vision — He knew you before birth (Jeremiah 1:5: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."). Surrender, tune to heaven and pursue what God sees for your life.
- See yourself as God sees you — Gideon was called a mighty warrior (Judges 6:12: "When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, 'The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.'"). When you align your self-view with God's view you become what He created you to be.
- Boldness flows from the Holy Spirit — Scripture declares, "The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion." (Proverbs 28:1). Let the Spirit empower you to step out in courageous faith despite fear.
- Cultivate vision with action — Real examples in the sermon (Joseph Strauss, Jim Stovall, ORU initiatives) show that dreaming big and taking the next right step turn God-sized ideas into kingdom impact. Define the higher calling first; then take the next step.
- Vision advances the gospel — A vision sent Paul into Europe (Acts 16:9: "During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia... 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.'"). Join the Great Commission with bold, obedient action and bring Jesus to the nations.

## Scripture Verses

### Luke 1:11-17

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts

of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

#### Acts 10:11-16

He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." "Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

#### Acts 16:9

During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

#### Judges 6:12-13

When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior." "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian."

#### Jeremiah 1:4-8

The word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." "Alas, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you." "Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

#### Acts 9:15-17

But the Lord said to him, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel." I will show him how much he must suffer for my name. Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

#### Proverbs 28:1

The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

#### Numbers 13:33

There we saw the Nephilim (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim), and we seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.

## Quotes

- Our world revolves around things, which at one time could not be done because they were supposedly beyond the limits of human endeavor....don't be afraid to dream! - Joseph Strauss

- The next thing I tell them is don't get the how are you gonna do it mixed up in the what are you gonna do. - Jim Stovall
- You know, the Bible tells us that God sees us as his child, as healed, as whole, as champion, victor, more than a conqueror, as having peace in our hearts and living with love, as being bold and courageous. - Dr. Billy Wilson
- See yourself the way he sees you and then pursue that vision with boldness in the Holy Spirit. - Dr. Billy Wilson

## Bible Study

### Objectives

- Recognize that God sees you differently than you sometimes see yourself and learn to receive His vision for your life.
- Trace biblical examples of vision (Gideon, Jeremiah, Saul/Paul, Peter, Paul in Macedonia) and connect them to practical boldness today.
- Cultivate practical habits that open you to Holy Spirit–given vision and enable courageous, incremental action.
- Commit to at least one concrete step this week that moves you toward a God-sized vision.

### Reading and Reflections

- Judges 6:12-13 (NIV) — Read the angel's greeting to Gideon: 'The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.' Reflect on the gap between God's word and Gideon's self-view.
- Jeremiah 1:5-8 (NIV) — Read God's commissioning of Jeremiah and his reassurances: 'Do not say, 'I am too young.'" Reflect on God's perspective before your birth.
- Acts 10:9-16 (NIV) — Read Peter's vision about clean and unclean and reflect on how God's vision expands ministry and breaks barriers.
- Acts 16:9-10 (NIV) — Read Paul's Macedonian vision and reflect on how vision moves missionaries into new regions and seasons.
- Acts 9:15 (NIV) — Read God's assessment of Saul: 'This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name.' Reflect on how God repurposes pasts for mission.
- Proverbs 28:1 (NIV) — Read the contrast: 'The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.' Reflect on what boldness looks like in your life.

### Key Observations

- God sees potential and purpose in us before we see it in ourselves — often long before we are ready.
- Vision is both revealed (a word, a dream, a Scripture) and cultivated (training, community, repeated trust).

- Affirmation and repeated encounters with God (signs, prayer, confirmation from others) help a hesitant heart embrace a bold calling.
- Vision breaks barriers and redefines limits: Peter's sheet changed mission to the Gentiles; Paul's Macedonian call opened Europe to the gospel.
- Institutions and movements (Oral Roberts University, Empowered 21, Narrative Television, Stovall Center) show how one God-given vision multiplied into many lives served.
- Boldness is empowered by the Holy Spirit and practiced in small next steps — not merely an arrogance but faithful courage to serve and create value for others.

## Personal Reflections

- Where do I still see myself as 'small' or 'unready' when God has already called me to something greater? Write two places where doubt limits you.
- Remember one moment someone spoke a word over you that reflected God's view. How did that word shift you forward? Give thanks for it.
- Which story in this study (Gideon, Jeremiah, Paul, Peter, Joseph Strauss, Jim Stovall, Oral Roberts) most resonates with my season and why?
- What fears rise when I imagine stepping into a God-given vision? Name them and invite the Holy Spirit to confront each one.
- If God were to describe me today, what words would I hope to hear? How can I move toward becoming that person in practical ways?

## Lessons for Daily Life

- Tune to heaven daily through Scripture and prayer so God's voice becomes louder than your small thoughts about yourself.
- Receive encouragement and confirmation from trusted Christian mentors and community — God often speaks through His people.
- Embrace small acts of faithful obedience; God often narrows resources so dependence on Him produces boldness (as with Gideon).
- Differentiate sight from vision: sight is what is; vision is what God can do through you. Pursue the latter with faith.
- Remember that failure, limitation, or past sin does not disqualify you; it can be the raw material God uses to craft a powerful testimony (Paul's story).

## Practical Applications

- Daily 10-minute Vision Time: Begin each morning with Scripture (use one of the readings above), quiet reflection, and a written sentence: 'God, what do You see for me today?'
- Vision Journal: Write one God-sized dream and list the 'next right thing' you can do this week to move toward it.

- Seek two confirmations: share your one-sentence vision with a mature believer and a trusted friend and ask for prayer and honest feedback.
- Take a tangible next step: enroll in a class, join a ministry, draft a simple proposal, or make one phone call toward the vision.
- Serve and create value: like Jim Stovall turned his loss into Narrative Television, identify how your God-given vision creates value for others and begin serving there.
- Practice courageous language: speak your vision out loud in the present tense ('I am called to...', 'I will...') and thank God for what He will do.
- Prepare to be stretched: accept that God may narrow your 'army' or resources so you depend on Him; plan for flexibility and obedience.

## Challenges for the Week

- Challenge 1 — Ask God for one clear word: Spend 15 minutes each morning this week praying Psalm 25 or Ephesians 1:18 and ask God to show one area of vision. Write the word He gives you.
- Challenge 2 — Take one brave step: Do one thing this week that feels risky for your calling (send an email, sign up, volunteer, pitch an idea).
- Challenge 3 — Tell two people: Share your one-sentence vision with a pastor or mentor and with one friend who will pray and encourage you.
- Challenge 4 — Practice obedience like Gideon: Identify one area where you have been waiting for perfect certainty; act on faith with a small test of obedience.
- Challenge 5 — Serve with kingdom impact: Find one way this week to create value for someone else tied to your vision (offer help, teach, listen, or pray).

## Further Study

- Habakkuk 2:2-3 (NIV) — 'Write down the revelation...' Study how God instructs us to record and wait on vision.
- Ephesians 1:17-19; 3:16-19 (NIV) — Pray for enlightened eyes of the heart and the Spirit's empowerment to live into God's riches and strength.
- Philippians 4:13 (NIV) — 'I can do all this through him who gives me strength.' Meditate on strength received in Christ for vision work.
- 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV) — Reflect on being transformed into God's image from glory to glory as you pursue His vision.
- Read 'The Power of One' (resource referenced by Dr. Billy Wilson) and explore Empowered 21's Everyone Initiative for global vision and practical mobilization.
- Study biographies of modern visionaries referenced in the sermon: Oral Roberts, Joseph Strauss (for industrial example of dreaming big), Jim Stovall — note how personal trials, community, and perseverance fueled their callings.

## Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, You who knew us before we were formed in the womb, I thank You that You see me more truly and more beautifully than I see myself. Open the eyes of my heart (Ephesians 1:18) so I may know the hope to which You have called me. Give me boldness as the righteous are as bold as a lion (Proverbs 28:1). Remove the smallness of my thinking and replace it with Your expansive vision. Give me courage like Gideon when he stepped out in faith, conviction like Jeremiah when he obeyed Your call, and purpose like Paul when he carried Your name to new places. Show me the next right step and the strength to take it (Philippians 4:13). Use my life to create value for others, to bring healing, hope, and the gospel to my sphere. I surrender my plans to You; breathe Your Spirit on my vision, confirm it by Your Word and by faithful brothers and sisters, and equip me to obey. In Jesus' name, amen.

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