

Preparation for Bold Confidence

This isn't church

- This is an equipping time

Ac 4.5-13: “The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, ‘By what power or by what name did you do this?’ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

“the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

“it has become the cornerstone.”

“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.’

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus.”

Bold Confidence

- Boldness = *parresia*: “a state of boldness and confidence, sometimes implying intimidating circumstances”



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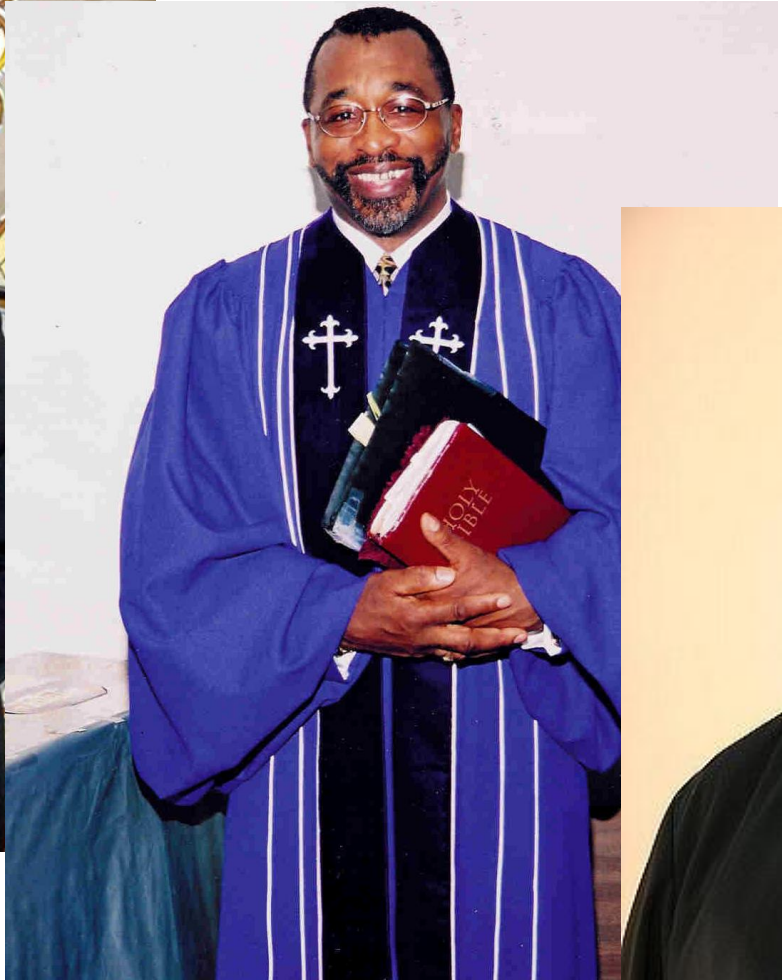
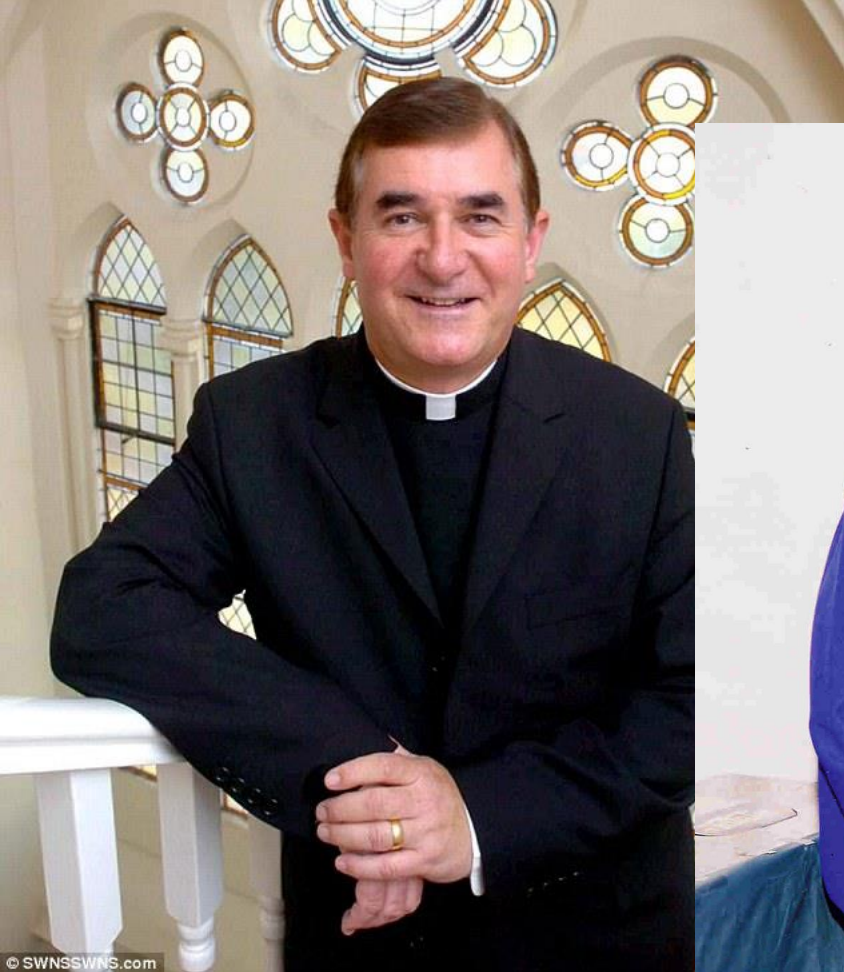
- Preparation, knowledge, work of the Spirit → bold confidence



“Why is it that the vast majority of Christian believers remain largely unexposed to Christian learning—to historical-critical studies of the Bible, the content and structure of the great doctrines, to two thousand years of classic works on the Christian life, to basic disciplines of theology, biblical languages and ethics? Why do bankers, lawyers, farmers, physicians, homemakers, scientists, salespeople, managers of all sorts, people who carry out all kinds of complicated tasks in their work and home, remain in a literalist, elementary school level in their religious understanding? How is it that high school age church members move easily and quickly into the complex world of computers, foreign languages, DNA and calculus, and cannot even make a beginning in historical-critical interpretation of a single text of Scripture? How is it possible one can attend or even teach Sunday School for decades and at the end of that lack the interpretive skills of someone who has taken three or four weeks in an introductory course in the Bible at a university or seminary?” Edward Farley, *Can Church Education Be Theological Education*

Discuss

- Do you agree with Farley's assessment?
- What led us to this state of affairs?
- What problems has it produced?
- What solutions are there?

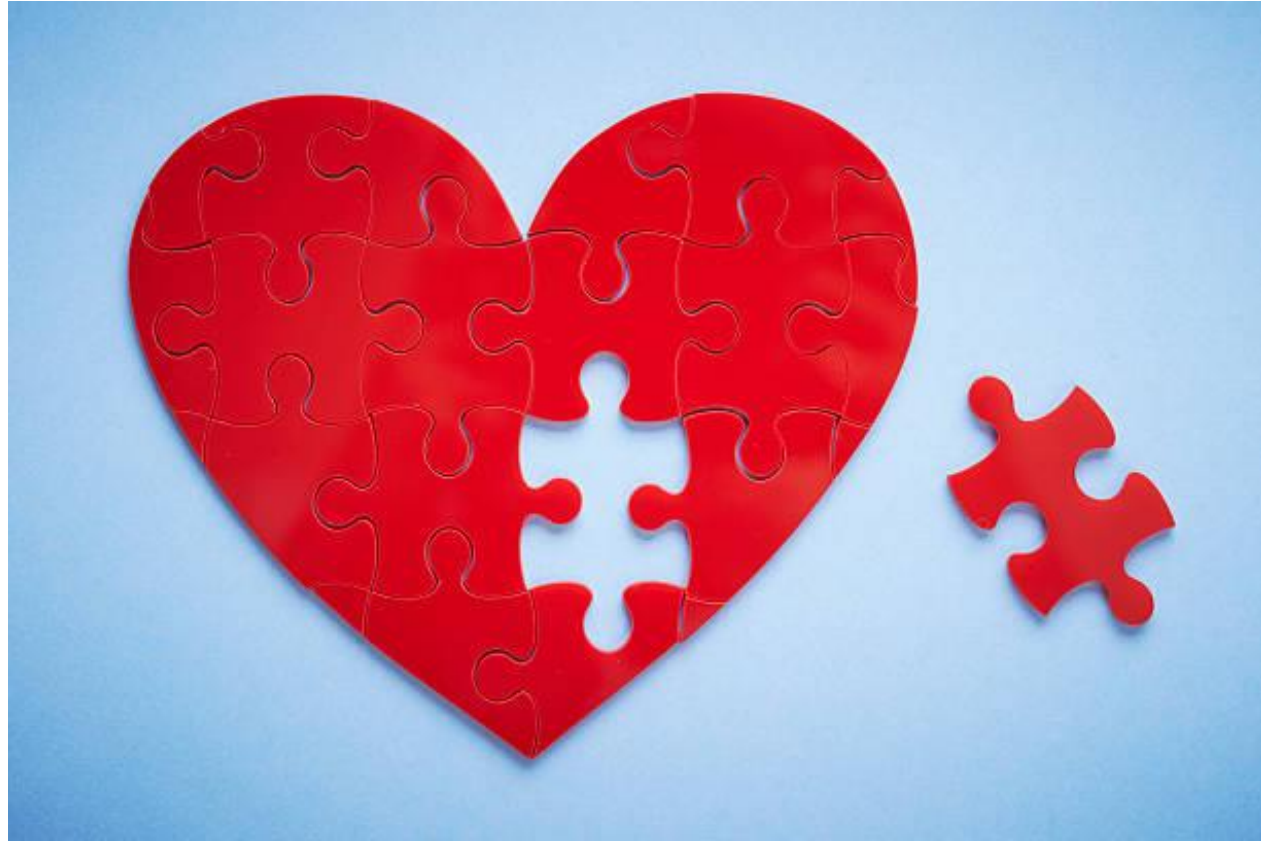


you.

Ep 4.11-16: “The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.”

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1 Co 14.26: “What should be done then, my brothers and sisters? When you come together, ***each one*** has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.”



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“[Paul] differentiates between those who are strong and those who are worldly or weak in their Christian understanding. He regards these not as two levels of membership within the community but as varying stages of maturity. ... Maturity is the aim of all and Paul nowhere limits its achievement to an elite. ... Those who have advanced furthest along the path toward maturity ought to assist those who still have some distance to travel.” Robert J. Banks, Paul’s Idea of Community, 140-141



The Story

Resources for opening the scriptures to those desiring to follow Jesus as the early followers did after his resurrection.

[See Details ›](#)



The First Principles Series

Engage every believer in the first principles of Christianity.

[See Details ›](#)



Mastering the Scriptures Series

Guiding maturing believers and local (modal) church leaders in a process of solidly understanding the entire Bible.

[See Details ›](#)



The Leadership Series

Comprehensive theological education within the life and ministry of local churches.

[See Details ›](#)



Life Development Resources

Resources for developing skill in all areas of life, for all ages.

[See Details ›](#)



Core Education Series

Resources designed to lay a solid general education foundation for all students.

[See Details ›](#)



**“I DON'T HAVE THE
TIME”**



Discuss

- How would you assess your level of bold confidence right now?
- What steps do you need to take personally, or does your church need to make, to produce bold confidence?
- What are some of the changes you will need to make in order to become committed to your own development?
- How would your churches be affected if people at all levels develop bold confidence?