God’s Need For Men

Intro: Jer. 5:1 “Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it.” Jeremiah is told to go through the city of Jerusalem and see if he can find a man. God is in need of men today in the church (1 Cor. 16:13 “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”). In this lesson I want us to notice a few of the qualities in men that God needs today.

I. MEN OF CONVICTION
   A. Definition of conviction
      1. It is the act of convincing or bringing certainty to the mind.
      2. It is having knowledge and assurance of something.
      3. Today we are told that we can not know anything (don’t be dogmatic).
      4. It use to be that men were convinced that they were right, now it does not make any difference as long as one is sincere.
   B. We need men of conviction today.
      1. Jam. 1:8 “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”
      2. We cannot be divided in our minds.
         a. 1 Kin. 18:21 “And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.”
         b. Mat. 6:24 “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”; Luke 16:13 “No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”
      3. Consider Paul.
         a. Even when he was in error he was convicted.
            (1) Acts 23:1 “And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.”
            (2) That is why he persecuted the church; Acts 26:9 “I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.”
         b. After being converted he was a man of conviction.
         c. 2 Tim. 1:12 “For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”
   C. Notice some things we must be convinced of today.
      1. God
      2. Jesus as the Christ the Son of God.
      3. The plan of salvation
      4. The worship and organization of the church
      5. morals
      6. pornography
      7. dancing
      8. drinking
      9. lying
   D. There is a story of a very artistic man who was shocked at a hideously ugly house. Its architectural repulsiveness so moved the man that he refused to walk any more in that area lest he see that repulsive house. However his memory tormented him day
and night, he devised a plan. He bought the house, moved into it, went in and out and never saw it again. He simply adjusted! Moral: This is just about what we have done regarding our convictions. We have become tolerant and tolerance is “conviction grown tender.”

II. MEN OF COURAGE

A. Meaning

1. “That quality of mind which enables one to face dangers, difficulties, threats, pain etc., without fear; bravery, boldness, intrepidity, pluck.

2. Without this quality, even if a person was convinced of something, it would do him no good; he would be scared.

3. 2 Tim. 1:7 “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (fear literally means “cowardice or timidity”).

4. Thus, we need to be bold, and courageous.

B. Areas of boldness.

1. Preaching and teaching.

a. Acts 4:13, 29 “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....29And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,”

b. Acts 19:8 “And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.”

c. 1 The. 2:2 “But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.”

d. Eph. 6:19-20 “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, 20For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

e. Then we will turn the world upside down also; Acts 17:6 “And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;”

f. We must be bold in preaching to the lost.

(1) We must convict men of sin; John 16:8-11 “And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.”

(2) Acts 2:36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

(3) Acts 7:51-53 “Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. 52Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: 53Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.”

h. We must be bold in standing against error.

(1) Tit. 1:11-13 “Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre’s sake. 12One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are alway liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. 13This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;”
(2) Jude 3 “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

(3) 2 Tim. 4:2-5 “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.”

2. We must be bold in living right.
   a. Rom. 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

b. 1 Cor. 6:19-20 “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

c. Gal. 5:19-25 “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

d. Col. 3:1-2, 10, 12-17 “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth....And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:...Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

e. 2 Pet. 1:3-11 “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

3. We must be bold in standing against wickedness, worldliness and immorality.
   a. Jam. 4:4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”; 1 John 2:15-17 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man
love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

b. 1 Cor. 5:11 “But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.”
c. Examples: drinking, dancing, immodest apparel, fornication, self-centeredness, etc.

C. When we are bold we will be hated both by Christians and non-Christians.
1. John 3:19-21 “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. 21But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”; cf. John 15:18-20 “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. 20Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.”
2. When we courageously expose sin; we will be hated by those who are engaged in that sin.

D. When we are courageous then God will be with us.
1. Jos. 1:9 “Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”
2. Jer. 1:8 “Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord.”
3. Psa. 27:1 “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”
4. Heb. 13:6 “So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”

III. MEN OF ACTION
A. God wants men who will act upon what they believe.
1. Phi. 2:12 “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”
2. Rom. 2:13 “(For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.”
3. Jam. 1:22 “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”
4. Jam. 2:17-18, 20, 22, 24, 26 “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 18Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works....20But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?...22Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?...24Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only....26For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

B. Results
1. Of action
a. Will be wise; Mat. 7:24-27 “Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”
b. Will be Christ brother or sister; Mat. 12:50 “For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.”

c. Blessed
(1) John 13:17 “If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.”
(2) Jam. 1:25 “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

d. Justified; Rom. 2:13 “(For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.”

e. Will abide forever; 1 John 2:17 “And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

f. Salvation; Phi. 2:12 “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”

2. Of inaction
a. A dead faith; Jam. 2:17, 20 “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone....20But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?”

b. Will be lost; Mat. 7:21-23 “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

C. So many times we sit and bemoan things but never do anything about it.

IV. MEN WHO LOVE

A. God
1. We must love God above everything else.

a. Mat. 22:37 “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”

b. Mat. 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

c. Rev. 2:4-5 “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 5Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”

2. This will lead to right living.

a. John 14:15, 21, 23 “If ye love me, keep my commandments....21He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him....23Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”

b. 1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

B. God’s word (the truth)
1. We must love the truth above all else.

a. Pro. 23:23 “Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.”

b. Psa. 1:2 “But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”

c. Psa. 119:35, 47, 97, 127 “Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight....47And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved....”O
how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day....127Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.”

2. This will lead to the conviction and courage that we are to have.

C. The souls of men

1. We must love our fellow man.
   a. Mat. 22:39 “And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”
   b. Luke 10:27 “And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.”

2. We must have the desire for man to be saved.
   a. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
   b. Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

3. This will lead to action.
   a. We will take the truth to the lost.
      (1) Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
      (2) Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
   b. We will take a stand against error so that that error will not cause men to be lost.

Conclusion:

Poem: “God Give Us Men”

Give us men to match our mountains;
   Give us men to match our plains;
   Men with empires in their purpose;
   Men with throbbing, conquering brains.

   Give us men to lead our nation;
   Give us men with holy zeal;
   Men aflame with truth and vision;
   Men who bear the heavenly seal.

   Give us men who love the Bible,
   And its precepts do obey;
   Give us men who have convictions,
   And are Christians all the way.

   Give us men who follow Jesus;
   Give us men who love their Lord;
   Men with hearts pure and courageous;
   Men led by God’s Eternal Word.