



Definition: Confidence to say or do what is true, right, and just.

It is the quality of daring, characterized by confidence and standing out of the crowd. Courage is having strength to face danger, pain or difficulty without shrinking from it; Bravery is having firmness stronger than the force of fear; and fortitude is having strength to endure under attack. Boldness is

foundational to all three of these. It is the confidence which fuels courage, bravery, and fortitude with the knowledge, that what I have to say is true, right, and just.

Purpose Follows Principle:

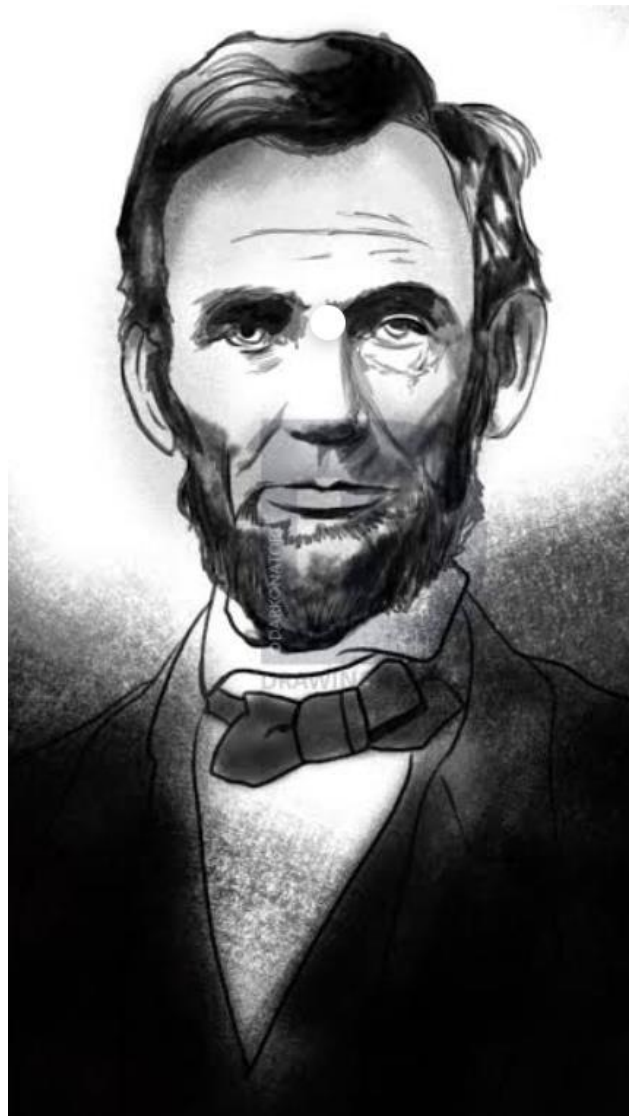
When Abraham Lincoln ran for the U.S. Senate in 1858, his consultants advised him not to address slavery in his campaign speech. He responded, "It is true that slavery is inhuman and we must abolish it, and I will deliver my speech as I wrote it. I would rather be defeated with these expressions than be victorious without them."

Lincoln stood boldly on principle. He endured major criticisms from slave masters and seasoned politicians for his politically incorrect statements, but he went on to become president of the United States. He found purpose in principle and was willing to sacrifice immediate success for lasting results. His boldness and confidence in what was right cost him dearly at the beginning, but his legendary character remains up to today.

Why Boldness?

So, one may ask themselves, why take the risk because of trying to be bold? Learn this, and never forget. In this life, every person searches for things, people, or ideas in which to find stability and security. Some choose to put their trust in popular opinion, the security of family & friends, or the prosperity of wealth. However, opinions change no matter how popular they may be, friends can betray a trust, and wealth can vanish overnight because of, for example, an unforeseen catastrophe.

Truth, right, and justice, on the other hand, provide a foundation which has remained far more stable throughout history than has opinion, popularity, and abundance.



Do you want to have boldness? Will you stand for what is right when pressures come? It won't always be popular, and you may be the only one, but if it is true, right, and just, you can have that boldness to stand by it and fear no one. Let's speak the truth always, do the right thing, and act justly. That's the way to have true boldness.

Application:

The first step to boldness is knowing what is true, right, and just – things that stand regardless of popular opinion. The next step is acting upon those principles.

- Sometimes it takes a while, but the truth always comes out in the end. Children should not fear speaking the truth, because as much as they try to hide a lie, it will eventually come back to them and make them to regret. One who speaks the truth never regrets.
- In many instances, people recognize that something should be said about an activity or situation, but they wait for some else to say it. They don't want others to be label them as unpopular. Bold children don't give in to such pressure. They willingly speak up for truth, even if no one else will.
- Boldness is confidence, not loudness. There are times when people should make their voice heard, but not in a horrible way. Just speak confidently, not angrily and loudly.



Will to Be Bold:

I Will:

- Not be afraid to speak the truth
- Keep a clear conscience
- Support others when they are right.
- Be willing to stand alone
- Speak with humility.

I Will Not Be Afraid to Speak the Truth: Speaking the truth isn't always easy. Sometimes it brings ridicule, embarrassment, or scorn. Boldness, however, is knowing that the truth is more important than personal reputation *or* temporary acceptance by others. Young people need not fear losing a friend because of the truth. Indeed, any friendship worth keeping must be built on truthfulness.

I Will Keep a Clear Conscience: Guilt eats away at confidence. People with a guilty conscience often experience great fear and insecurity. Even the smallest incidents trigger their fears and cause them to either cower or over-react.

Boldness requires children to set aside their pride, admit their wrong, and ask for forgiveness of those involved. By maintaining a clear conscience, children can speak and act with assurance that no one can accuse them of unresolved conflict or failure

I Will Support Others When They Are Right: True boldness sustains, upholds, and defends the causes of others when they are right. It supports right principles and right character in others without being

self-serving. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, age, economic status, or other outward appearance.

When others do things that are wrong, boldness rejects the wrong without rejecting the individual. It allows children to still support a person later on even though at one time they didn't support his or her wrong ideas. Therefore boldness dares to distinguish right from wrong, but without condemning others.

I Will Be Willing to Stand Alone: Boldness is easy when others join the same cause. But Children may not always have that support from their friends, family, or neighbors because of their own fears. So there will be times when children face a choice to stand alone.

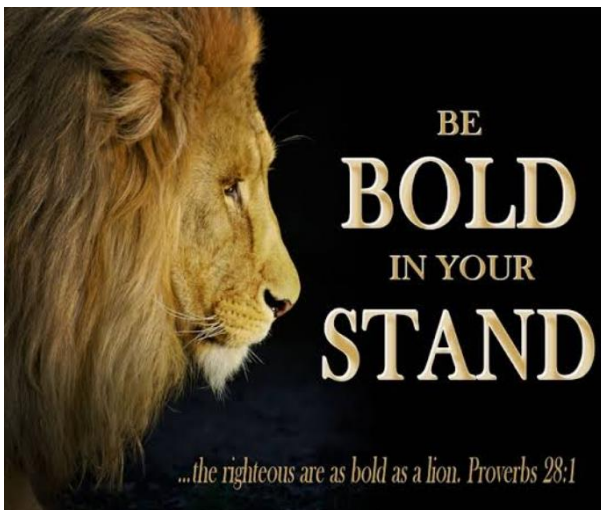
It is at those times that children especially need the courage to take a stand. When things go wrong in the teacher's or parent's absence, when peer pressure grows to do wrong at the playground, or when no one is at home/in dorm to see and stop the misdeeds of others, you must stand, not because it is easy, but because it is right.



I Will Speak with Humility: Let's note very carefully. Being right does not justify attitudes of pride, arrogance, or harshness. When children speak boldly, they must do so in a manner that reflects a humble attitude. They must be bold, but not go charging around and shouting at everyone.

Praise:

Many children are bombarded by influences that undermine good character. These young people need the support of parents and teachers to do the right thing. Parents are encouraged to find ways to counter wrong pressures with supportive words of praise.



Final Remarks: No matter what other people say, and no matter what other people do, you have to confidently say and do what is right, always right.