

“We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us” (2 Corinthians 4:7).



BEFORE I WAS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, I was so very shy and timid that I could hardly do anything. But when I was 19 years old, I prayed very earnestly and asked God to fill me with His Holy Spirit. Immediately I had new boldness—a sort of fearlessness, a God-given courage. It no longer mattered to me what others thought about me, as long as I knew I was right and doing the right things and saying the right things. As long as I knew I was in the will of God and doing what He wanted me to do, then the Spirit of God gave me this boldness. I didn't care about myself anymore. *I* just didn't matter! I was no longer self-conscious; I was *Christ*-conscious.

When the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, they boldly preached to the people (Acts chapter 2). Peter had been so afraid when Jesus was under arrest that he denied Him three times. But right after being filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter preached fearlessly to the multitudes. Peter's transformation showed that whatever got accomplished wasn't due to any greatness of his own, but because the power of Christ was in him.