

STEWARDING A STRONG PERSONALITY

AN APOSTOLIC PENTECOSTAL GUIDE TO
DANGERS, DISCERNMENT, AND
DOMINION IN THE HOLY GHOST



BIBLICAL TRUTH
Scripture, case studies,
and practical wisdom



APOSTOLIC PENTECOSTAL
Distinctives: Holy Ghost
power, tongues, gifts,
and the fruit of the Spirit



PSYCHOLOGICAL INSIGHT
Pros, cons, and clinical
guidance from mental
health professionals



PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP
Discipleship steps to cultivate
humility, accountability,
and godly leadership



ACCOUNTABILITY & GROWTH
Questions, checklists, and
tools for personal and
small group use



ELDER KEITH JOEL WALKER

*“The fruit of the
Spirit is love, joy,
peace, patience,
kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness,
self-control.”*

GALATIANS 5:22–23

**BOLDNESS
EMPOWERED
BY THE SPIRIT.**

**HUMILITY
EVIDENCED BY
THE FRUIT.**

PRAYER
SCRIPTURE
ACCOUNTABILITY
HOLY GHOST POWER

DISCERN. SURRENDER. SERVE. MULTIPLY.

WRITTEN BY
ELDER KEITH JOEL WALKER



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*An Apostolic Pentecostal Guide
to Dangers, Discernment, and
Dominion in the Holy Ghost*

Written by
Elder Keith Joel Walker

whpctuttle.com

Short answer up front:

A strong personality is not sinful. God often uses bold, decisive people. But when that strength is driven by self rather than the Spirit it produces pride, control, bullying, isolation, and an unteachable spirit. The Apostolic Pentecostal way is to cultivate boldness empowered and tempered by the Holy Ghost — evidenced by tongues, the fruit of the Spirit, humility, and words “seasoned with grace” (Col. 4:6). This booklet explains the biblical dangers, gives practical stewardship, and summarizes what mental-health professionals see as pros and cons of a strong personality.

Purpose and Audience

- For believers, leaders, ministers, and small groups who want to steward God-given boldness without falling into the traps of self-will.
- Integrates Scripture, Apostolic Pentecostal distinctives (Holy Ghost evidence, tongues, fruit), biblical case studies, and psychological perspective.

Core Theological Principle

Boldness + Meekness = Kingdom fruit. God’s call

is for courageous action empowered by humility: “I am meek and lowly in heart” (Matt. 11:29), yet Paul models boldness in ministry (2 Cor. 10:1). The Holy Ghost produces power, not pride; evidence includes spiritual gifts (Acts 2:4) and the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22–23).

Danger Signs of An Uncontrolled Strong Personality

- Pride / self-exaltation — Proverbs 16:18; James 4:6.
- Refusal to be taught / stubbornness — Proverbs 12:15; Deut. 9:7.
- Know-it-all attitude — Proverbs 26:12.
- Bullying or domineering leadership — Matthew 20:25–28; Psalm 10:2.
- Controlling, manipulative behavior — 1 Cor. 4:6–7.
- Defensive, resists correction — Proverbs 15:31–32; 2 Tim. 2:24–25.
- Isolation / “lone ranger” ministry — Proverbs 18:1; Eccles. 4:9–12.
- Overcompensation from insecurity (jealousy, rage) — 1 Samuel 18 (Saul).
- Self-reliance/arrogance (fails to depend on God) — Daniel 4 (Nebuchadnezzar).

Biblical Examples (brief summary & takeaway)

- Saul — proud, unteachable, jealous (1 Sam. 13; 15) — consequence: loss of God’s favor.
- Nebuchadnezzar — self-exaltation humbled by God (Dan. 4) — God resists the proud.
- Pharaoh — repeated stubbornness; hardened heart (Exodus 5–14).
- Jonah — stubborn, resentful when mercy was shown (Jonah 1–4).
- Samson — raw strength, unchecked impulses, self-ruled life (Judges 13–16).
- Absalom, Haman, Balaam — ambition, pride, and destruction.
- Pharisees — religiosity without humility (Matt. 23).
- Moses, Peter, Paul — strong personalities used by God when conformed to Christ (Exodus; Luke; Acts; Galatians).

Distinguishing “Boldness of the Holy Ghost” from “Boldness of the Self”

Boldness of the Holy Ghost:

- Motivated by love, obedience, and compassion (John 14:15; 1 Cor. 13).
- Produces spiritual fruit: love, patience, gentleness,

self-control (Gal. 5:22–23).

- Evidenced by spiritual gifts (Apostolic Pentecostal emphasis): tongues, prophecy when given in humility and order (Acts 2; 1 Cor. 14).
- Words are seasoned with grace and edify (Col. 4:6; Eph. 4:29). Boldness of the self:
- Motivated by fear, insecurity, pride, or ambition.
- Produces impatience, harshness, domination, defensiveness.
- Is unteachable, resists correction, isolates or bullies others.

What Psychiatrists & Psychologists Say — Pros and Cons of a Strong Personality

Note: This is a general summary of common perspectives in clinical and personality psychology (not a diagnostic tool). Mental-health professionals view personality traits on continuums; what helps in one context can harm in another.

Pros (strengths often recognized)

- Leadership ability: decisiveness, initiative, comfort with responsibility.
- High energy and motivation: drives projects and change.
- Resilience and grit: persistence in the face of

obstacles.

- Confidence and assertiveness: can advocate clearly for self and others.
- Innovativeness and risk-taking: creative problem solving and entrepreneurship.
- Clear vision and conviction: helps mobilize teams and movements.

Cons / Risks (areas clinicians watch)

- Interpersonal conflict: bluntness or dominance can alienate others.
- Low empathy when stressed: difficulty reading/responding to feelings.
- Rigidity and inflexibility: trouble adapting or admitting mistakes.
- Isolation and loneliness: difficulty forming safe vulnerability or close friendships.
- Anger dysregulation: hostility or rage under perceived threat.
- Narcissistic tendencies if self-importance grows: entitlement, lack of remorse.
- Burnout risk: drive without self-care leads to exhaustion.
- Relationship damage: pattern of control/hurt can harm family and ministry.

Clinical Interventions and Recommendations (how therapists typically help)

- Assessment: identify trait patterns (e.g., high extraversion, low agreeableness).
- Skill training: assertiveness with empathy, active listening, emotional regulation (DBT skills).
- Cognitive restructuring (CBT): challenge rigid beliefs (“I must be in control to be safe”).
- Interpersonal therapy: repair relational patterns and build attachment.
- Anger management and stress reduction: relaxation, boundaries, accountability.
- Pastoral integration: combine therapy with spiritual disciplines and accountability in the church.

Apostolic Pentecostal Pastoral/ Practical Steps to Steward a Strong Personality

Spiritual Disciplines:

- Humility through prayer and fasting (James 4:6; Matt. 6:16–18).
 - Daily dependence: confess self-reliance, practice prayer of surrender (Phil. 4:6–7).
 - Seek the Spirit’s fruit: cultivate gentleness, patience, self-control (Gal. 5:22–23).
- Accountability & mentorship:

- Submit to trusted elders, mentors, or mature believers for correction (Heb. 13:17; Prov. 11:14).
- Join small groups for feedback and mutual sharpening (Prov. 27:17). Speech and leadership practices:
 - Season words with grace (Col. 4:6). Practice asking: Will this build up? Is it kind?
 - Learn to apologize quickly and make restitution (Matt. 5:23–24).
 - Delegate and empower rather than control: train others to lead. Testing gifts and calling:
 - Make sure ministry moments are validated by the Spirit, Scripture, and local church leadership (1 Cor. 14; 1 Thess. 5:19–21).
 - Observe fruit over time: love, unity, repentance, and transformed lives indicate God’s work.

Practical Emotional Tools:

- Pause and breathe before responding.
- Use a “feedback loop”: ask one trusted person to be honest about when you’re crossing lines.
- Develop empathy habits: reflective listening, summarizing others’ feelings.
- Regular rest and Sabbath to reduce reactivity.

A Short Checklist:
Am I driven by the Spirit or by Self?

(Answer honestly; if “often” next to multiple items, seek counsel.)

- I resist correction or quickly justify myself.
- I dominate conversations and interrupt others.
- I minimize others’ contributions and highlight my own.
- I feel threatened when my authority is questioned.
- I have a hard time apologizing.
- I pray and depend on the Lord in decisions vs. concluding before seeking God?
- My speech builds up others and is seasoned with grace? (Col. 4:6)

Small Group/ Personal Reflection Questions

- Where have I seen God use my boldness for good? Where have I seen it hurt others?
- Which Scriptures convict me about pride and which encourage me to be bold?
- Who in my life can speak the truth to me and hold me accountable?
- How does the fruit of the Spirit show in my speech and leadership?
- What practical steps will I take this week to

demonstrate meekness?

Sample Short Prayer for Deliverance from Self-Will and for Holy Ghost Boldness

Heavenly Father, You have given me gifts and strength. Forgive me for using them for my glory, for harsh words, for pride, and for isolation. Fill me with the Holy Ghost; let Your fruit show in my life. Grant me meekness with boldness, teachability, and love. Send Your Spirit to guide my words so they build up, not tear down. In Jesus' name, amen.

When to Seek Professional Help

- Repeated relational breakdowns despite repentance efforts.
- Patterns of controlling, abusive, or narcissistic behavior.
- Anger that leads to violence or intimidation.
- Sustained depression, anxiety, or trauma symptoms linked to personality patterns. In such cases, combine professional therapy with pastoral care. Therapies (CBT, DBT, interpersonal therapy) are tools God uses to bring healing.

Practical Resources & Next Steps

- Scripture passages to memorize: Galatians 5:22–23; Colossians 3:12–14; Matthew 11:29; 2 Timothy 2:24–25; James 4:6.
- If you lead: develop an accountability team and quarterly reviews.
- If you're a member: lovingly offer correction with gentleness (Gal. 6:1).
- Books (suggested): pastoral and psychological works on leadership and humility; seek titles recommended by your church elders or Christian counselors.
- Consider a short discipleship plan: 30 days of humility practices (daily confession, Scripture, accountability check).

Final Encouragement

God uses strong personalities for His purposes. The call is not to suppress strength but to submit it to Christ. Be bold for Jesus, yes — but let that boldness be clothed with humility, guided by the Holy Ghost, and marked by the fruit of the Spirit. A disciplined, accountable, Spirit-filled life protects you from the dangers of unchecked personality and multiplies your effectiveness for the ministry.