

# Freedom to Think

Faith, Courage, and the Next Generation

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# **Freedom to Think: Faith, Courage, and the Next Generation**

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This book is dedicated to the memory of my daughter Dyan, whose life, though brief, continues to shape my heart and my faith. Her absence has taught me that courage is often born from loss, and that love does not end where life does.

It is also dedicated to my daughter Katy, whose strength, compassion, perseverance, and steadfast faith in Christ remind me daily of the quiet power of resilience, hope, and trust in God's promises.

And to my grandchildren—may you grow up in a world where truth is spoken without fear, where faith in Christ is lived with humility and courage, and where you are always encouraged to think clearly, love deeply, and stand firm in what is right.

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# Foreword

2025 was a pretty intense and amazing year.

I've come to know, and have become friends with William in 2025, and he's opened my view to how deep and local our fights for basic freedoms actually go. After seeing how William's school board willfully (and easily) ignored his First Amendment rights, it proves to me how important it is to run for local office, your local school board, or even your HOA. We need God fearing, freedom loving people in places that are designed to prioritize and KEEP our freedoms in place. Instead, we've elected people who implement restrictive, corporate or politically biased policies in the name of governance, and they are doing it without consideration of individual rights anymore, and without God.

What I've discovered through my 35 years of broadcasting, is that it's no secret, the political left is not interested in you thinking freely, or any of your opinions that don't align with theirs. Just look at how they treat Democrat Senator John Fetterman when his public opinions step out of line with the party. Democrats see you as a vote, a resource that can elect them into power - nothing more. It's also painfully obvious that one certain political ideology puts all their

effort into controlling and regulating everything, while the other political ideology wants to keep that governing body in check by making the government's primary function to PRESERVE and CONSERVE the life, rights and freedoms of its citizens.

It isn't a good look to go out and start violating people's rights, so the Left have adopted a more subtle approach. They understand it's easier to program you from a very young age to think a certain way, to lean your empathies a certain way and to feel shame if you believe a certain way. It has had a chilling effect on individual expression, where you would rather be silent, than battle a strong narrative. It's how God was removed from schools, and it is all by design. Have you noticed we now have an entire generation that is under-educated on the realities of the world and so committed to their emotions, their causes and their feelings, that they are willing to commit violence for it? No God-given discernment, no faith, no love for their fellow man, and no love for freedom, just useful idiots with focused rage brought on by lifelong programming and justified by political and media narratives - again, all by design.

“Hard Times Create Strong Men, Strong Men Create Good Times, Good Times Create

Weak Men, Weak Men Create Hard Times” ...and the cycle forever continues without escape. It’s my opinion that we are in the ‘Weak Men’ phase, slowly shifting to the reset of this age-old cycle. I have faith in the strength and resolve of this upcoming generation, one that honors God and values common sense over programmed ideology. Faith, freedom and God-given discernment are His gifts to be used and, as it says in Ephesians 6:12, we are not to be in a struggle with principalities, governors or any political power, this is the timeless, historical fight between good and evil - always has been, always will be.

Kane

Executive Producer

The Dana Show(@DLoesch)

# Acknowledgements

No work like this is written alone. Though the words on these pages carry my voice, they are shaped and sustained by the people, principles, and experiences God has placed in my life.

First and foremost, I thank my wife, Elizabeth. Her patience, encouragement, and steady faith have carried me through long hours of writing, reflection, and revision. She has supported this work not only with words, but with quiet strength, prayer, and understanding. This book would not exist without her love and belief in what I have been called to do.

I have been a longtime listener and admirer of The Dana Show, well before ever meeting Dana or Kane, her producer, and long before the circumstances surrounding the classroom poster incident, which inspired me to write *Quiet Courage in the Classroom*, brought our paths together. Over the years, the show has consistently modeled thoughtful engagement, principled conviction, and a refusal to surrender truth to pressure. That steady presence mattered to me as an educator and as a person of faith, particularly in moments when clarity and courage felt increasingly rare.

I am grateful for the example of Dana Loesch, whose commitment to truth and liberty continues to remind many of us that conviction does not require permission. Dana's willingness to defend both First Amendment and Second Amendment freedoms consistently, and without apology, has encouraged countless individuals to stand firm when silence would be easier.

My thanks as well to Dana's executive producer, Kane, whose passion for standing beside those who are ridiculed or intimidated for their beliefs reflects a deep understanding of what freedom truly requires. His advocacy reminds us that courage multiplies when people are willing to stand together rather than withdraw individually.

I am also thankful for Ron DeSantis and the leadership of the Free State of Florida that continues to protect the ability to speak, write, and teach honestly. I am especially grateful for the legal protections afforded to good public-school teachers who strive to educate with integrity and courage, even in the face of pressure from authoritarian school districts and corrupt teachers' unions that too often place power above students.

Finally, I want to acknowledge my students. They inspire this work more than they may ever realize. Their questions, curiosity, and desire to learn how to think—not merely what to think—give me hope for the next generation. Each thoughtful challenge, honest conversation, and moment of intellectual courage reminds me why this work matters.

If this book encourages even a few readers to think more clearly, speak more faithfully, or stand more confidently, it is because of the people acknowledged here—and because of the calling to which I remain grateful to answer.

# Introduction

## Freedom to Think Is a Sacred Gift

Freedom to think is not something granted by governments, institutions, or cultural approval. It is a gift given by God. From the very beginning, He created us with the ability to reason, to discern, and to choose.

This gift of free will comes with responsibility, but it also comes with immense power. It shapes how we understand truth, how we live out our beliefs, and how we respond when those beliefs are tested. Thinking freely is not an abstract exercise; it is woven into conscience, faith, and moral courage. When people are discouraged from thinking freely, they are not merely being silenced socially or professionally; they are being diminished spiritually.

What begins as a matter of conscience often becomes a matter of consequence. In every generation, there is pressure to conform. Sometimes it is loud and aggressive. Other times, it is quiet, polite, and disguised as “doing the right thing.” Today, this pressure has become especially

strong in our schools, our churches, our workplaces, and even within our own families.

Many people of faith sense that something is wrong, yet hesitate to speak, aware of the personal and professional consequences of standing apart. Fear has become a powerful tool.

This book is written for those who believe in truth, who value faith, and who feel the weight of silence pressing in. It is for educators who wonder whether teaching discernment is now considered dangerous. It is for parents who feel unequipped to counter the messages their children absorb daily. It is for pastors and community leaders who feel torn between protecting their institutions and proclaiming truth. And it is for anyone who knows, deep down, that courage rooted in faith is not optional; it is required.

Faith has never promised safety. Scripture is filled with individuals who were called to stand when standing came at a cost. The apostle Paul understood this reality well. His faithfulness did not lead him into comfort, but into repeated hardship: imprisonment, beatings, rejection, and ultimately execution.

Paul did not misunderstand the cost of obedience; he accepted it knowingly. Again and again, he chose to speak truth in places where it

was unwelcome, trusting that faithfulness mattered more than preservation. His letters reflect unyielding resolve; a confidence that obedience was worth suffering because truth was worth proclaiming.

John the Baptist offers a similar witness. He did not temper his message to protect his position, nor did he retreat when his words challenged those in power. His call to repentance was clear, direct, and uncompromising, and delivered without regard for personal cost. This faithfulness eventually led to his imprisonment and death.

John's faith was not rewarded with safety, but it was honored with purpose. He understood that his role was to prepare the way, to speak what needed to be spoken, and to accept the consequences that followed.

Paul and John were not reckless or hateful. Their obedience was deliberate. Their courage grew out of trust—trust that truth matters and that God remains sovereign, even when outcomes are uncertain.

Yet modern culture often confuses courage with anger, and conviction with intolerance. As a result, many believers have been trained to soften their words, dilute their beliefs, or remain silent altogether. Over time, silence begins to feel

like wisdom. But silence, when it abandons truth, is not wisdom at all. It is surrender.

This is not a call to political activism, nor is it an invitation to conflict. It is a call to *discernment* is about learning how to stand firm without becoming hardened, how to speak truth without losing love, and how to model faith-based courage for the next generation. Children are watching far more closely than we realize; not just what we say, but what we are willing to risk.

If freedom to think is surrendered, faith soon follows. When individuals stop questioning, stop discerning, and stop teaching their children how to think, they become dependent on institutions, on ideology, and on approval. This dependency is not accidental, and it is not harmless. A generation raised without discernment is a generation easily led.

I have witnessed the effects of this firsthand. Fear can silence good people. I have also seen how one voice, spoken with humility and conviction, can give others permission to stand. Courage is not reserved for the bold or the loud. It is often found in quiet obedience; choosing faith when fear would be easier, when silence offers protection, and conformity promises peace.

What is being called for is a return to what was always meant to be exercised: the freedom to think, guided by faith, anchored in truth, and passed intentionally to the next generation. The stakes are high, and the responsibility is clear. We are not called to retreat. We are called to stand.

# Chapter One - Created to Discern: Why Free Thought Is God-Given

From the very beginning, humanity was created with the ability to think, to reason, and to choose. This capacity was not incidental. It was not a secondary feature added as an afterthought. It was central to how God designed us. Scripture makes it clear that human beings were created in the image of God, and that image includes the capacity for discernment: the ability to recognize truth, weigh meaning, and act with moral responsibility.

This capacity for free thought is not a modern invention. It is not a political concept or a cultural trend. It is a spiritual reality rooted in creation itself. Without the ability to think freely, obedience would be meaningless. Faith would be automatic rather than intentional. Love would be compelled rather than chosen. From the start, God's design for humanity included the dignity of choice.

The opening chapters of Genesis reveal this design clearly. Adam and Eve were given instruction, and they were also given freedom.