

# Be Bold, Be Strong: Morris Chapman (1983)<sup>1</sup>

**Visualisation:** Anthrodirectional.

**Analysis:** The aim is to use claim a Christian lifestyle, encouraging others to share in. (I have often used this song to jest about the tradition habit of closing our eyes while we sing to each other—why not look around at those you're singing to?) I guess that Dt.20:1 & especially Jos.1:9, are behind this song. Both are Yahweh texts, put the Sunday School way as [the Lord] for this song, [the Lord] being defined in 1 Cor.8:6 as Jesus. Bring back Yahweh, the more than Jesus. As it stands, I do not downgrade for soft misvis, since although the song doesn't guide aright, it doesn't guide awrong, and *lord God* has NT witness—to the father.

*The lord your god*, suitable polytheistic contrast in lower Sinai classes, should be discounted in more advanced years. To the extent that we have a god, we have not God.<sup>2</sup> He is not our god, but he is ours. I downgrade for polytheism. The NT does a certain amount of Christification, in the sense of Jesus standing for Yahweh. The song could employ such slack, and reword to *Jesus your lord*. It might be more accurate to refer rather to the spirit, our guide on the path.

I am unhappy with proclaiming that I am unafraid, undismayed, bold in faith and strong in victory. However, I must grant that some are probably in that happy position—I'm sure that Paul knew such moments. Perhaps singers should divide into those who truthfully sing the words, and they who truthfully do not sing the words. "*When I became a Christian I stopped telling lies and started singing them*" (Nick Page's *And Now Let's Move into a Time of Nonsense*, 2004:25). The expression, *get real*, might come in at this point. For those who truthfully so sing, it is not boast, merely matter of fact; for those who untruthfully so sing, for some it might be boast, yet for some perhaps mere timidity. Were the words a claim for future Christian life, I would mark down as boast.

**Suggestions:** Replace *the lord your god*, **by** *Jesus your lord*; *I am not*, **by** *I'd not be, because I'm walking*, **by** *I would be walking*.

BAG	A	B	C	D	E	F	G <sup>1,2</sup>	H <sup>1,2</sup>	I	J <sup>1,2,3</sup>	K	L	M	Total	Grade
	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	82	B+

<sup>1</sup> [www.higherpraise.com/lyrics/love/love852941.htm](http://www.higherpraise.com/lyrics/love/love852941.htm)

<sup>2</sup> <http://mdtc.eu/wgggodype.html>

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A = Mixed Themes (-4); B = Incompleteness (-4); C = Archaism (-8);

D = Blessing God (-4); E = Buddy or Boyfriend (-4); F = Polytheism (-8); G = Voxdeism: Soft (-24), Hard (-48);

H = Unitarianism: Soft (-60), Hard (-72); I = Misdirection (-12); J = Misvisualisation: Soft (-12), Mid (-24),

Hard (-36); K = Boasting (-8); L = Decontextualising (-8); M = Hermit Harakiri (-12)