

Courageous Christianity

Joshua 1:1-9

Joshua 1:1-5

- “After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: 2 Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them-the children of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. 5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

Joshua 1:6-9

- “Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

Courage From The Scriptures

- As Joshua was told to be courageous, so are Christians
 - Phil. 1:27-28 - “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.”

Courage From The Scriptures

- As Joshua was told to do all of the law, so are Christians
 - James 2:10 - “For whoever shall keep the whole law and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.”

Courage From The Scriptures

- As Joshua was commanded not to turn to the right or the left, Christians are not to turn aside
 - Acts 20:22-24 - “And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. 24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”
 - 2John 9 - “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.”

Courage From The Scriptures

- As Joshua was told he would prosper as he served God faithfully, so are Christians going to prosper
 - Rev. 22:14 - “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.”

Why Is Courage Essential?

- God commands it
 - Joshua 1:9 - “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed...”
 - Heb. 10:35-39 - “Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 37 For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.”

Why Is Courage Essential?

- God pledges His support to the courageous
 - Joshua 1:9 - “...for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go”
 - Matt. 28:20 - “...lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
 - Heb. 13:5-6 - “...For He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 So we may boldly say: The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”
 - Phil. 4:13 - “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Why Is Courage Essential?

- God gives assurances of success to the courageous
 - Joshua 1:8 - “...For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”
 - Rev. 2:10 - “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”
 - Rev. 3:21 - “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

Why Is Courage Essential?

- Isa. 40:10-11 - “O Zion, You who bring good tidings, Get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, Lift up your voice with strength, Lift it up, be not afraid; Say to the cities of Judah, Behold your God! 10 Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him. 11 He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.”

When Is Courage Needed?

- When in a minority, it is tempting to renounce your position.
- God's people always seem to be in the minority.
- Noah
 - Gen. 6:8 - “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”
 - Gen. 7:1 - “Then the LORD said to Noah, Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.”

When Is Courage Needed?

- Elijah was outnumbered by Baal's prophets 450 to 1
 - 1Kings 18:22 - "Then Elijah said to the people, I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men."

When Is Courage Needed?

- The apostle Paul stood alone
 - 2Tim. 4:16-18 - “At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. 17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. 18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom.”

When Is Courage Needed?

- Things are not much different for God's people today
 - Luke 13:23-27 - “Then one said to Him, Lord, are there few who are saved? And He said to them, 24 Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. 25 When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,' 26 then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' 27 But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.’”

When Is Courage Needed?

- God expects His children to stand for what is right, even in a minority
 - 2Cor. 6:17-18 - “Therefore, Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you. 18 I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.”

When Is Courage Needed?

- Sometimes God's faithful had to stand up against civil government.
 - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego - Dan. 3:16-18
 - Daniel - Dan. 6:7-10
 - Peter and John - Acts 4:18-19
 - How can you know if you can pass the test? See if your courage gives out in lesser situations: Family, work, etc.

When Is Courage Needed?

- When facing temptation
 - Joseph - Gen. 39:6-12

When Is Courage Needed?

- Satan walks about as a roaring lion
 - 1Peter 5:8 - “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”
 - James 1:13-15 - “Let no one say when he is tempted, I am tempted by God; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”

When Is Courage Needed?

- Christians are to resist the skilled Adversary
 - James 4:7 - “Resist the devil and he will flee from you”
- Courage comes from knowledge of God's care
 - 1Cor. 10:13 - “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

When Is Courage Needed?

- When warning sinners
 - It is not love that keeps silent when another is acting self-destructively, it is fear of confrontation
 - It is much easier to overlook and forget the sins of others, but that is not what is best for either of you

When Is Courage Needed?

- Nathan
 - 2Sam. 12:7 - “Then Nathan said to David, You are the man!”
- John the Baptist
 - Mark 6:18 - “For John had said to Herod, It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.”
- Paul to Peter
 - Gal. 2:11 - “Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed”

When Is Courage Needed?

- The consequences of acting courageously are not always pleasing. Some will not repent; others may react badly
- Yet, it brings spiritual contentment
 - Acts 20:26-27 - “Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”

When Is Courage Needed?

- When admitting wrong, sometimes this takes more courage than anything else. The coward's way is to justify one's wrongs.
- David
 - 2Sam. 12:13 - "So David said to Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD."

When Is Courage Needed?

- Many will often say preachers, “How courageous you are!” But they are usually preaching among friends.
- The truly courageous are those who go out into the world each day and place their faith before others.