



What Does Courage Look Like?

Joshua 1:9: (NASB) *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*



Courage. It is an attribute we all can envision somehow or other. Courage is digging deep within to do what others won't. It is acting in spite of fear, it is standing up when no one else will, it is joining with others against the odds and it is facing an enemy when you are overmatched. Courage is being, doing, seeing and thinking beyond what you thought possible. It is strength personified, perseverance in action and focus revealed. Courage changes things. Can you develop courage? Can you actually make yourself more likely to be courageous? Stick around and find out!

There are many examples of courage in the Bible. We will begin with one:

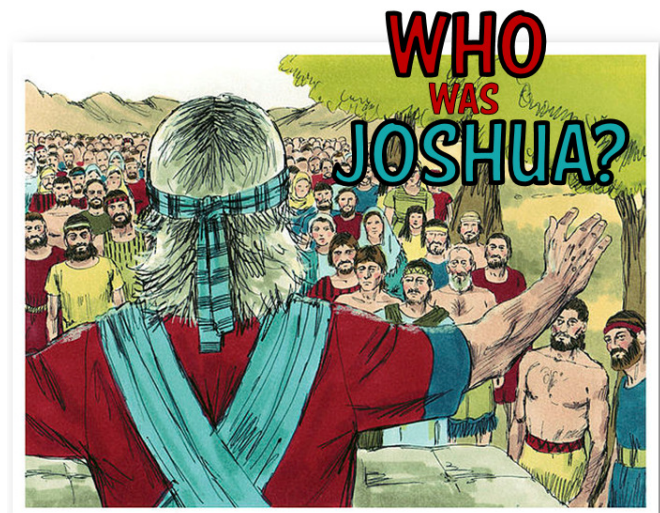
Joshua 1:1-6: (NASB) *¹Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant, saying, ²Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. ³Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. ⁴From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory. ⁵No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. ⁶Be **strong** <2388> and **courageous** <553>, for you shall give this people possession of the land, which I swore to their fathers to give them.*

Moses was a deliverer and one of the greatest prophets of God. Joshua was to take over the role of Moses after he died.

Strong: Strongs #2388 to fasten upon; hence, to seize, be strong (figuratively, courageous, causatively strengthen, cure, help, repair, fortify), obstinate; to bind, restrain, conquer

Courageous: Strongs #553 to be alert, physically (on foot) or mentally (in courage)

(Source: Biblical commentary from C.T. Russell) Joshua, whose name signifies “deliverer” or “savior,” became Israel’s leader and under him they won great victories and actually entered the land promised in the Covenant. At the time of his taking Moses’ place, he was in his 83rd year, yet full of vigor and evidently the best-qualified man for the position.





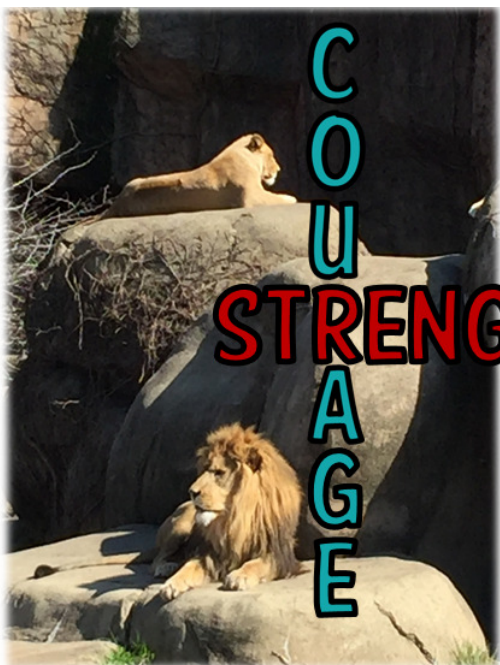
What is the difference between being strong and courageous?

🔊) The Cowardly Lion, *The Wizard of Oz*, movie (1939)

- (Dorothy) *Your Majesty, if you were king, you wouldn't be afraid of anything?*
- (Cowardly Lion): *Not nobody! Not no how!*
- (Tin Woodsman) *Not even a rhinoceros?*
- (Cowardly Lion) *Imposerous!*
- (Dorothy) *How about a hippopotamus?*
- (Cowardly Lion) *Why, I'd thrash him from top to bottomus!*
- (Dorothy) *Supposing you met an elephant?*
- (Cowardly Lion) *I'd wrap him up in cellophant!*
- (Scarecrow) *What if it were a brontosaurus?*
- (Cowardly Lion) *I'd show him who was king of the forest!*
- (Altogether) *How?*
- (Cowardly Lion) *How? Courage!*



Without courage, strength is merely an attribute that can seize upon and hold something either in a physical or intellectual sense. While this is a necessary and important attribute, it is limited in its reach. Courage, on the other hand, is driven of the heart and is necessary to act on one's strength, to be able to apply that strength to the challenges and tragedies of life.



Courage is strength that comes out of you - you have to have strength before you can show courage. Courage is meaningless unless it is outward. Strength is meaningful when it is inward.

Psalm 27:14: (NASB) *Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the LORD.*

Psalm 31:24: (NASB) *Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who hope in the LORD.*

Strength and courage belong together.



Courage is great! But where is the “on” button?

🔊) What courage looks like, *The Cost of Courage*, Michael Crouch, TEDx

- *I want to talk to you about what courage looks like. When Wangari Maathai won the Noble Peace Prize in 2004, she said, “There is no courage without conviction.” The root of courage is “cor,” and in Latin that means “heart.” So, there is not courage without conviction, without heart, without a purpose.*



Let’s take those Joshua 1 Scriptures apart and see what they tell us about how courage works.

For courage to present itself, what does it require?

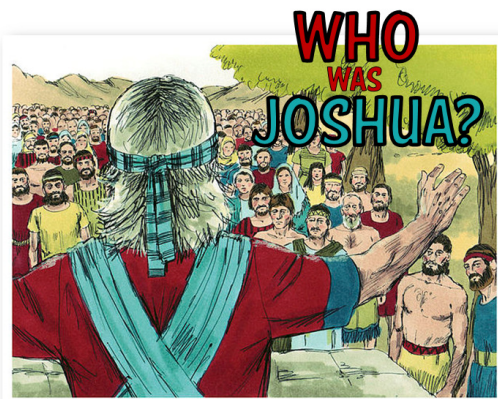
Opportunity: Is there a leadership void? Are there enough voices to stand against the tide? Is there something in your personal life that needs to be addressed in a different way? Is there an opportunity that requires courage?

Joshua 1:1-2: (NASB) ¹Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ servant, saying, ²Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel.

Moses died, leaving a leadership void. Someone had to step in. But not too many of us will be in such a dramatic situation. How does this give us a practical example? We probably overlook a lot of smaller opportunities. For example, we live in an immoral society that generally looks down upon Christianity. There are multiple opportunities to have the courage to stand up for principles of morality. Standing for something requires courage.

Elements of Joshua’s opportunity for courage:

- Moses, God’s standard-bearer, was now dead. (A void in leadership)
- Joshua was well prepared for responsibility.



But while Joshua could not be Moses, the leader, commander, lawgiver, he was faithful as a follower of Moses, as one who obeyed the divine law, and whose faith and influence with the people were helpful to them. Joshua’s training as general assistant, private secretary, etc., to Moses made him familiar with the divine plans and methods. To him was entrusted the command of the people in their first battle. It was Joshua who went with Moses into Mount Sinai; it was he who led one of the companies of spies who brought back a good report and who courageously stood with Moses in advising that the people have faith in God and proceed to conquer and possess the Promised Land.

Joshua had a lot of experiences that molded him into being ready to take such a big role.



- Joshua was seasoned.

He must have been either the oldest man in all the nation or next to the oldest, for only himself and Caleb of all the nation that were above 20 years of age at the Exodus remained alive.

What are the elements of *our* opportunities for courage?

- Jesus died and led us to follow his footsteps - this is an opportunity for our courage, as it is no easy task.

Luke 9:23-24: (NASB) ²³And he was saying to them all, if anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake, he is the one who will save it.

The cross was a symbol of shame, torture and eventually death. Jesus told his followers we would have to be willing to face these things. That takes courage applied every day.

- Our preparation begins with our *lack* of preparation.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31: (NASB) ²⁶For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ²⁷but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, ²⁸and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, ²⁹so that no man may boast before God. ³⁰But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, ³¹so that, just as it is written, let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.

The qualifications require those who do not think so highly of themselves that He would not be able to guide and lead us. He wants those who have fallen down, who do not know everything, who are not looked upon by those of the world with the greatest respect - God can work with such a person.



A CQ App Listener writes: In a way we can relate to Joshua if we see ourselves as assistants to Christ and HIS cause.

- Our seasoning is developed in our walk with Jesus.

It will be tough but Jesus already walked that walk and shows us how to be courageous in our everyday lives.

John 16:33: (NASB) *These things I have spoken to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.*



A CQ App Listener writes: Not many noble are called...wasn't Moses the meekest man on earth?

Yes, which is why he was so fit to take on amazing responsibility to not only lead the Israelites out of the Exodus but also to receive the Law that changed the world!



Does courage need a focus to be effective?

Opportunity is in place, but what is our objective? What is it that must be done or said?



God told Joshua his objective:

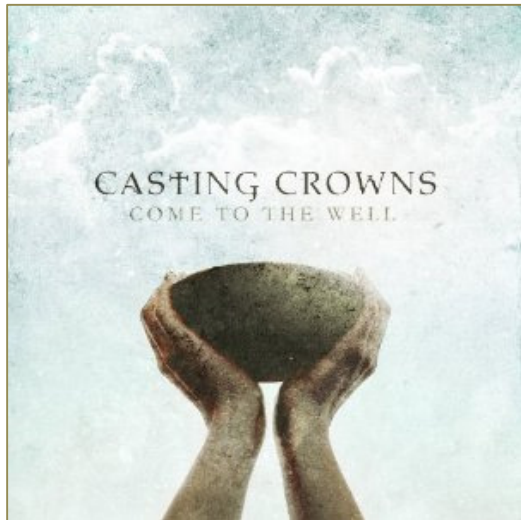
Joshua 1:3-4: (NASB) ³Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. ⁴From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory.

To be recognizable, courage must have an objective. For Joshua, it was two-fold. First, Israel needed a leader, and second, they needed that leader to literally take them to the Promised Land!

The objective of our courage has many facets - some are internal, some are external and all require the combination of strength and courage.



"Courageous," (Verse one) Casting Crowns



We were made to be courageous
We were made to lead the way
We could be the generation
That finally breaks the chains
We were made to be courageous
We were made to be courageous

We were warriors on the front lines
Standing, unafraid
But now we're watchers on the sidelines
While our families slip away

Where are you, men of courage?
You were made for so much more
Let the pounding of our hearts cry
We will serve the Lord

We were made to be courageous
And we're taking back the fight
We were made to be courageous
And it starts with us tonight

The only way we'll ever stand
Is on our knees with lifted hands
Make us courageous
Lord, make us courageous

This song is about fathers being strong examples of Christ-likeness in their own families - a clear-cut objective.



A caller from Connecticut volunteers at a memory care unit where most of the patients have dementia or Alzheimer's. Their friends and relatives tell her she is very courageous to visit, because they will not go because their relatives do not recognize them and sometimes get combative. She asks how she can encourage them to be courageous and visit them. The patients ask her where their relatives are and she does not have the answer.

We will address this as we lay out the program. They have an opportunity, but what will their objective be? To go there so *they* can feel good, or is it to go to add to the life of someone else whose life is confused and drifting away? If they can decide their objective is outside of “me” and is for the other person, the process begins for them to have courage. Perhaps the objective is to honor your mother and father and remember the love that person showed you and show love in return. Where do you get the strength for that? More soon!



2 Timothy 2:1-4: (NASB) (First is strength...) ¹You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ²The things, which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (...now comes courage) ³Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

Romans 12:1-2: (KJV) (First is strength...) ¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. (...now comes courage) ²And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.



Our overall objective is to be Christ-like. We cannot change the world around us, but we can influence the world around us. Positive influence takes courage. Our courage has to come from the right places for the right reasons.



In the Fiery Furnace account, the strength of the three Hebrews had been developed over a long period of time.

This test would show that courage lived as a result of that strength:

Daniel 3:15-18: (NASB) ¹⁵Now if you are ready, at the moment you hear the sound of.... all kinds of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made... But if you do not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands? ¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. ¹⁷If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.



1 Peter 4:12-14: (NASB) ¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing (First is strength...), as though some strange thing were happening to you; ¹³but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ (...now comes courage), keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of his glory you may rejoice with exultation. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

If you are reviled for the name of Christ, if you have made a stand and people persecute you or make fun of you, you have expressed yourself in a courageous way. People do not normally do that unless they have strength first.

 **The Cowardly Lion, The Wizard of Oz, movie (1939)**

- (Cowardly Lion) *Courage! What makes a king out of a slave? Courage! What makes the flag on the mast to wave? Courage! What makes the elephant charge his tusk in the misty mist, or the dusky dusk? What makes the muskrat guard his musk? Courage! What makes the Sphinx the seventh wonder? Courage! What makes the dawn come up like thunder? Courage! What makes the Hottentot so hot? What puts the "ape" in apricot? What have they got that I ain't got?*
- (Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Woodsman) *Courage!*
- (Cowardly Lion) *You can say that again! Huh?*



Just like the Cowardly Lion, so many of us want courage, but are we willing to do the things necessary to develop it?



For courage to surface it requires the right elements to be in place. First, *strength* - be it of a physical or mental nature - is needed to feed courage. Strength by itself does not produce courage; it merely produces an environment for courage to shine. Next, courage needs an *opportunity*, some kind of a vital void that cries to be filled. Beyond filling this void, courage needs an *objective*, something specific that needs action.

recap
recap

Being a footstep follower of Christ (1 Peter 2:21) means to become more Christ-like, living with integrity, motivated by love and sacrifice. We should be looking every day for opportunities of courage. Moment by moment, we have to be strong and courageous in what we think about, what we do, what we say and where we go.

With opportunity and objective clear, courage now needs a power source. Where does the strength come from to stand firm?



Joshua 1:5-6: (NASB) ⁵No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. ⁶Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land, which I swore to their fathers to give them.

God is SPECIFIC in His power and promise to Joshua. God would be the power source.



A caller from Connecticut reminds us of Jesus reassuring his Apostles in Matthew 10:19,20: *But when they do arrest you, never worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be told at the time what you are to say. For it will not be really you who are speaking but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. To the previous caller, she is a model example and God sees her work, which should satisfy her.*

Example: Gideon needed reassurance. As a matter of fact, he needed reassurance several times!

Judges 6:11-17: (NASB) ¹¹Then the angel of the LORD came and sat under the oak that was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash... as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press in order to save it from the Midianites. ¹²The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, The LORD is with you, O valiant warrior. ¹³Then Gideon said to him, O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles, which our fathers told us about, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.

Gideon displayed strength in word and action. His strength would soon blossom into courage:

¹⁴The LORD looked at him and said Go in this your strength and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you? ¹⁵He said to Him, O Lord, how shall I deliver Israel? Behold, my family is the least in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father's house. ¹⁶But the LORD said to him, surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat Midian as one man. ¹⁷So Gideon said to Him, if now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who speak with me.

God is SPECIFIC as to the source of power for Gideon's newly discovered courage. Because it was new, Gideon needed assurance. Was he courageous? Yes, but he was also human.



Sometimes we need that extra assurance when we are called upon to go beyond our normal limits:

1 Corinthians 10:13: (NASB) *No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.*

God is SPECIFIC as to our source of power for our courage as well.

Isaiah 40:28-29: (NASB) ²⁸*Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. ²⁹He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power...*

Fear is a reaction. Courage is a decision. — Winston Churchill

**It is one thing to be courageous for a moment,
but how can we stay courageous for a lifetime?**

Lifetime courage needs ENDURANCE: How does one maintain the strength for a long and hard battle?

Joshua was given THE secret for attaining enduring courage!

Joshua 1:7-8: (NASB) ⁷*Only be strong and very <3966> courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. ⁸This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.*

Very: Strongly #3966 properly, vehemently; by implication, wholly, speedily, etc.

THE secret for Joshua to lead a life of enduring courage was to immerse himself in the word of God. It was to ever be his companion, to ever be before him, spoken by him and remaining within him.

Our lifetime courage needs ENDURANCE.

We need the same secret:

2 Timothy 2:14-16: (NASB) ¹⁴*Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers. ¹⁵Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. ¹⁶But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness,*

If we don't read, think, rehearse, speak, act and live the Scriptures, how can we have true, deep, focused and abiding courage? Without the immersion of Scripture upon our lives, our enduring courage is subject to submersion.

All acts of courage are not righteous, godly or even good. The courage we are to have is supposed to be righteous, godly and good - and scriptural. The only way we can tell the difference is if we are immersed in the word of God.



Back to our first caller’s question, the motivation (power source) for the folks she wants to be more courageous is because their relatives need them. How can that work in their everyday lives? Fear overrides that motivation and the balance needs to change. Perhaps the caller could volunteer to go with them and let her courage rub off on them. Perhaps they can do it together. We can reflect our power source, God, which could encourage and spread courage to others.



“Courageous,” (Verse two) Casting Crowns

This is our resolution
Our answer to the call
We will love our wives and children
We refuse to let them fall

We will reignite the passion
That we buried deep inside
May the watchers become warriors
Let the men of God arise

We were made to be courageous
And we're taking back the fight
We were made to be courageous
And it starts with us tonight

The only way we'll ever stand
Is on our knees with lifted hands
Make us courageous
Lord, make us courageous

Notice strength and courage:

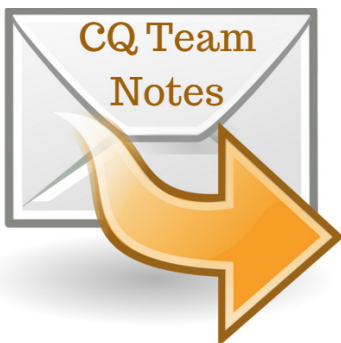
Isaiah 40:30-31: (NASB) ³⁰Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, ³¹Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.

The power source:

Deuteronomy 11:18-20: (NASB) ¹⁸You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul; and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. ¹⁹You shall teach them to your sons, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up. ²⁰You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

We can feed this supply line to each other:

Galatians 6:2: (NASB) *Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.*



Debbie says: En-courage: using the prefix en- means "within, in," "to cause a person or thing to be in."

Dis-courage: using the prefix dis- means "apart, asunder, away," it is a reversing force.

We know what it means to encourage someone or to discourage someone; this affects their drive or motivating force. What a blessing to know that our words, support and example can GIVE someone (or help them grab hold of) this strength of spirit as we have received strength by the example of others.



Fear is contagious. It changes the way people think and act. But courage is also contagious. We have the ability to make courage more contagious than fear. Together in fellowship, those with the same objective can often rise above things each individual might not have been able to do alone.

Encouragement is best when based upon the timeless wisdom and hope of Scripture:

Romans 15:4: (NASB) *For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17: (NASB) *¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

What can break our courage and how can we avoid it?



How do we keep fear subdued and enduring courage sustained?

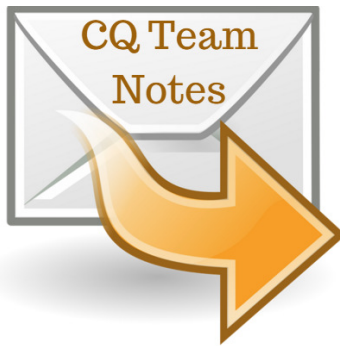
Joshua 1:9: (NASB) *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not **tremble** <6206> or be **dismayed** <2865>, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*

God showed Joshua the process and told him to be very courageous by keeping the Law. He assured Joshua He would be with him wherever he went.



Tremble: Strong's #6206, arats (aw-rats'); to awe or (intransitive) to dread; hence, to harass
Dismayed: Strong's #2865, chathath (khaw-thath'); properly, to prostrate; hence, to break down, either (literally) by violence, or (figuratively) by confusion and fear

Joshua was told what could distract and destroy his enduring courage - the gnawing, wearing and exhausting power of fear and the shattering power of darkness. Joshua was also **COMMANDED** that God could and would utterly defeat these things - as long as Joshua stayed focused on God, his power source.

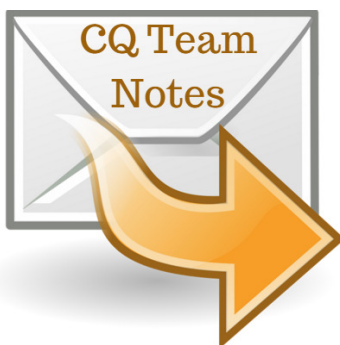


Loni says: I think courage is the by-product of the struggle between fear and faith. When our fears rise up and challenge our faith, a wrestling match takes place in our hearts. Every time faith overcomes fear, courage is cultivated. I believe that throughout our entire lives this series of battles are taking place and with each victory over fear, courage is strengthened and fortified. And whether those victories are seemingly great or small, they ALL count toward the development of courage.

Courage is knowing what not to fear. — Plato

Focus and faith foil fear!

Matthew 14:23-33: (NASB) ²³After he had sent the crowds away, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray; and when it was evening, he was there alone. ²⁴But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. ²⁵And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, it is a ghost! And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, take courage, it is I; do not be afraid. ²⁸Peter said to him, Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water. ²⁹And he said, Come! And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, Lord, save me! ³¹Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and took hold of him, and said to him, you of little faith, why did you doubt? ³²When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. ³³And those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, you are certainly God's Son!



Loni says: Peter got out of the boat because Jesus called to him, and his focus was on his Master. Faith won over fear in that moment, and the resulting courage moved Peter to step out of the safety of the boat. But when Peter focused on the storm, the account specifically says he became afraid and he began to sink. When fear overtook his faith, he lost courage. There are two lessons from this account that I try to keep in mind:

1. If we can keep our focus fixed on Jesus, our faith can have us walking on water, doing things we never thought possible. But if we turn our focus to the storms in our life, we will start to sink.
2. Even when we lose courage, like Peter, Jesus will NEVER let us drown.



"Courageous," (Verse three) Casting Crowns

Seek justice
Love mercy
Walk humbly with your God

In the war of the mind
I will make my stand
In the battle of the heart
And the battle of the hand

In the war of the mind
I will make my stand
In the battle of the heart
And the battle of the hand

We were made to be courageous
And we're taking back the fight
We were made to be courageous
And it starts with us tonight

The only way we'll ever stand
Is on our knees with lifted hands
Make us courageous
Lord, make us courageous

Hebrews 12:2-3: (NASB) ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³For consider him who has endured such hostility by sinners against himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Find your focus to foil fear and live with courage! There is opportunity, an objective, a power source, enduring strength...and then there is fear. Put it all together and look at how God showed Joshua to overcome fear to become courageous. We can do the same thing in Christ.

It is all about deciding...fear is a reaction, courage is a choice. Decide to be courageous. Find your strength in Scripture and fellowship and do what must be done.

*So, how do we develop endurance?
For Jonathan and Rick (and Kathy!) and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



We received a CQ App Message from a listener with a question on last week's topic, "Will My Regrets Ever Leave Me Alone? (Part II)" from April 17, 2016: If I feel regret for wronging someone in the past, do I need to personally apologize to the person I've wronged to be forgiven by God? The person doesn't know that it was me that had caused a major complication in their life, and I regret it every day.



Answer: Our two-part series on regrets discussed in detail five necessary steps to use regret to propel you forward rather than hold you back. The first step is to accept the pain and the second is to accept responsibility. If you can be truly sorry and repentant for what you did, you can change both of your lives. Although forgiveness by God can be obtained without going to the other party in extenuating circumstances, it is very advisable to do so if at all possible. Our questioner's reaction of regretting what he or she did every day indicates that he or she did not fully take responsibility, and without that, finding forgiveness is a much more difficult task, for the sense of "unfinished business" always looms. Allowing one's self to be accountable is a real sign of a contrite heart and this is what God is looking for - just ask King David...!

A few more Scriptures regarding the objectives of our courage:

Matthew 20:26-27: (NASB) *²⁶It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave;*

Luke 16:10: (NASB) *He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.*

A little more on Gideon - his doubts and his courage all rolled into one!

Judges 6:33-40: (NASB) *³³Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the sons of the east assembled themselves; and they crossed over and camped in the valley of Jezreel. ³⁴So the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; and he blew a trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called together to follow him. ³⁵He sent messengers throughout Manasseh, and they also were called together to follow him; and he sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and they came up to meet them. ³⁶Then Gideon said to God, If You will deliver Israel through me, as You have spoken, ³⁷behold, I will put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I will know that You will deliver Israel through me, as You have spoken. ³⁸And it was so. When he arose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece, he drained the dew from the fleece, a bowl full of water.*

Gideon needed this assurance and it would be the second sign from God that he received, but having received it, he asked for more:

³⁹Then Gideon said to God, Do not let Your anger burn against me that I may speak once more; please let me make a test once more with the fleece, let it now be dry only on the fleece, and let there be dew on all the ground. ⁴⁰God did so that night; for it was dry only on the fleece, and dew was on all the ground.

Gideon now had a third sign from God.

Now Gideon would pursue his path with courage and God would again test him:

Judges 7:1-8: (NASB) *¹Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him, rose early and camped beside the spring of Harod; and the camp of Midian was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley. ²The LORD said to Gideon, The people who are with you are too many for Me to give Midian into their hands, for Israel would become boastful, saying, My own power has delivered me. ³Now therefore come, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, Whoever is afraid and trembling, let him return and depart from Mount Gilead. So 22,000 people returned, but 10,000 remained. ⁴Then the LORD said to Gideon, The people are still too many; bring them down to the water and I will test them for you there. Therefore it shall be that he of whom I say to you, This one shall go with you, he shall go with you; but everyone of whom I say to you, This one shall not go with you, he shall not go. ⁵So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, You shall separate everyone who*

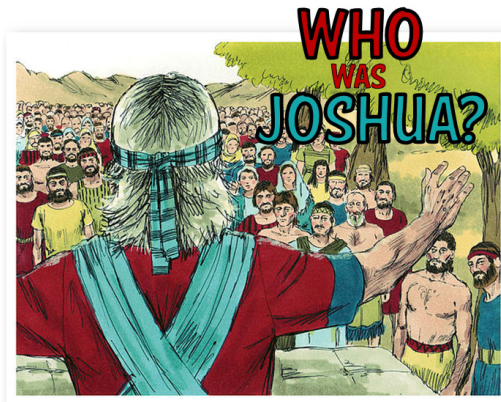


laps the water with his tongue as a dog laps, as well as everyone who kneels to drink. ⁶Now the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was 300 men; but all the rest of the people knelt to drink water. ⁷The LORD said to Gideon, "I will deliver you with the 300 men who lapped and will give the Midianites into your hands; so let all the other people go, each man to his home. ⁸So the 300 men took the people's provisions and their trumpets into their hands. And Gideon sent all the other men of Israel, each to his tent, but retained the 300 men; and the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

This would now need to be courage on steroids! God knew this and offered Gideon another assurance:

Judges 7:9-15: (NASB) *⁹Now the same night it came about that the LORD said to him, Arise, go down against the camp, for I have given it into your hands. ¹⁰But if you are afraid to go down, go with Purah your servant down to the camp, ¹¹and you will hear what they say; and afterward your hands will be strengthened that you may go down against the camp. So he went with Purah his servant down to the outposts of the army that was in the camp. ¹²Now the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the sons of the east were lying in the valley as numerous as locusts; and their camels were without number, as numerous as the sand on the seashore. ¹³When Gideon came, behold, a man was relating a dream to his friend. And he said, Behold, I had a dream; a loaf of barley bread was tumbling into the camp of Midian, and it came to the tent and struck it so that it fell, and turned it upside down so that the tent lay flat. ¹⁴His friend replied, this is nothing less than the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel; God has given Midian and all the camp into his hand. ¹⁵When Gideon heard the account of the dream and its interpretation, he bowed in worship. He returned to the camp of Israel and said, Arise, for the LORD has given the camp of Midian into your hands.*

The lesson? When God sets you on a course of courage, He provides all you need to faithfully live that courage!



(Source: Biblical commentary by C.T. Russell) Joshua, whose name signifies deliverer, or savior, became Israel's leader and under him they won great victories and actually entered the land promised in the covenant... He was of the tribe of Ephraim, of one of its leading families, his grandfather Elishama having been a captain of the army of the Ephraimites, 40,500 in number at the organization of the Israelites soon after the exodus...

At the time of his taking Moses' place he was in his 83rd year, yet full of vigor and evidently the best-qualified man for the position. For twenty-seven years Joshua was the leader of Israel, faithful to God and to the people. He not only led them through Jordan and directed in the conquering of city after city but he also divided the land among the tribes and governed the people with great acceptance, dying at the age of 110.

It would not do for us to contrast Joshua with Moses as a leader, for they were men of totally different types. Indeed, anyone contrasted with Moses would be disadvantaged, so high did that great statesman tower above the average of humanity then or since. But while Joshua could not be Moses, the leader, commander, lawgiver, he was faithful as a follower of Moses, as one who obeyed the divine law, and whose faith and influence with the people were helpful to them. He was just what God wished him to be, and whoever is worthy of such a testimony is truly great.



Joshua's training as general assistant, private secretary, etc., to Moses, made him familiar with the divine plans and methods. To him was entrusted the command of the people in their first battle. It was Joshua who went with Moses into Mount Sinai; it was he who led one of the companies of spies ...who brought back a good report and who courageously stood with Moses in advising that the people have faith in God and proceed to conquer and possess the Promised Land. He must have been either the oldest man in all the nation or next to the oldest, for only himself and Caleb of all the nation that were above twenty years of age at the exodus remained alive... Moses did not lead the people into the land of promise; it was Joshua - their new leader - who led them over Jordan. Thus the type shows that mankind will enter into the Promised Land not by the Law, but by a Savior.

Courage is the price that life exacts for granting peace. — Amelia Earhart

Courage is the ladder on which all the other virtues mount. — Clare Boothe Luce

How few there are who have courage enough to own their faults, or resolution enough to mend them. — Benjamin Franklin

Courage - a perfect sensibility of the measure of danger, and a mental willingness to endure it. — William Tecumseh Sherman

Finally, a short poem about courage:

When the odds are stacked against you
And you can't see how to make it through
When NOTHING has turned out the way
you hoped it would,
thought it should,
or wished it could,
When you look around feeling lost and distressed
But chose to remember that in spite of everything, you are blessed,
When you boldly and unapologetically say:
I still trust my Lord, come what may...
That is courage. - Loni