

COURAGE TO LIVE FOR CHRIST

8/3/2025 PM

INTRO.:

A. Read text: Psalm 27:11-14.

B. Regarding the text:

1. God wants His people to be courageous.
2. **Deut. 31:6** “Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”
3. Courage is a needed virtue:
 - 1) One said, “Courage is the virtue that makes all other virtues possible.”
 - 2) Courage = O/T word: be courageous (of good courage, steadfastly minded, strong, stronger), establish, fortify, harden, increase, prevail, strengthen (self), make strong (obstinate, speed). N/T word: to be bold.
4. We need courage to be faithful to God. **Josh 1:7** “Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law...”

I. COURAGE IS NECESSARY FOR GOD’S WORK.

A. Soldiers are to be courageous. And we are to be soldiers.

1. **1 Tim. 6:12** “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”
2. Not shirking responsibilities: **Heb 10:38** “Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”

B. Without courage, we will not “fight the good fight of faith” (1 Tim. 6:12).

II. SOME EXAMPLES OF COURAGE.

A. Several examples:

1. Three young men. S/M/A: **Dan. 3.**
2. Daniel: **Dan. 6.**
3. Stephen: **Acts 7.**
4. Paul: **Acts 18:9** “Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:”

B. Especially notice David: 1 Sam. 17:29-39; 45-56 Several things should be observed:

1. There was a cause.
 - 1) Goliath stood against God. Israel’s army was fearful. David contended with the oppressor.
 - 2) We must stand for the truth as well. **Jude 3; 1 Cor. 16:13** “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be

strong.

2. David was familiar with his weapon.”
 - 1) Saul tried to get him to put on armor that did not fit and of which David was not familiar. (But he would use the weapon he was familiar with.) In the military, men are taught.
 - 2) If we are to stand, we must be familiar with our weapon. **2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Tim 4:13** “Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.” Our Lord always quoted Scriptures to His enemies (**Matt. 4**).
3. The giant did not intimidate him.
 - 1) Earlier, Israel had been fearful (**Num. 13:33** “And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.”)
 - 2) We must see the power of God, not our giants (**Phil 4:13; 2 Pet. 2:9** “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.”)

III. FROM WHERE DOES OUR COURAGE COME?

A. God.

1. **1 Sam 30:6** “...David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.”
2. **Ps. 68:35** “...the God of Israel is he that giveth strength and power unto his people. Blessed be God.”

B. Scriptures.

1. **Ps. 119:107** “I am afflicted very much: quicken me, O LORD, according unto thy word.”
2. **Job 4:4** “Thy words have upholden him that was falling, and thou hast strengthened the feeble knees.”

C. Prayer. **Heb 4:16** “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

D. Fellow Christians.

1. **Heb 10:24-25; 3:13** “But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”
2. **1 Thess 5:11** Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

IV. WE ALL NEED COURAGE.

A. There are times we seem to need more than at other times.

B. Courage does not mean being void of fear, but rather dealing with fear and knowing there is a way to victory.