



STEWARDSHIP OF COURAGE

*Wait patiently for the LORD. Be brave and courageous.
Yes, wait patiently for the LORD.
Psalm 27:14 NLT*

The stewardship of courage begins with a deep faith in God, accessed by prayer, and lived out in patient waiting and hopeful trust. We are an impatient people, yet God, who understands us completely and loves us perfectly, knows exactly what we need to grow into the people He is calling us to be.

COURAGE BEGINS WITH WAITING

We were created on purpose for a purpose, and God faithfully prepares us to fulfill that purpose. Author, speaker, and storyteller, Matt Ham, writes, "I've come to understand the profound truth that courage is patient. It takes courage to wait—to trust God so exclusively that [our] circumstances lose their power ..."

ALL OF CREATION KNOWS WHAT IT IS TO WAIT

Waiting is universal, never easy, and often requires uncomfortable opportunities to practice again and again. Psalm 56:3 NLT says, "When I am afraid, I will trust in You." It's not *if* we are afraid, but *when* we are afraid.

Every courageous person in the Bible experienced doubt, questions, misgivings, anxiety, and fear. They knew their weaknesses – too young, too old, unknown, inexperienced, unskilled, unqualified – yet God had created them to fulfill their



Kingdom purposes, so instead of changing their circumstances or eradicating their fears, *He called them to trust Him in the midst of them*, and that trust became the conduit of their courage.

COURAGE IS REFINED THROUGH TRIALS

"Don't run from tests and hardships, brothers and sisters. As difficult as they are, you will ultimately find joy in them; if you embrace them, your faith will blossom under pressure and teach you true patience as you endure. And true patience brought on by endurance will equip you to complete the long journey and cross the finish line—mature, complete, and wanting nothing." James 1:3 VOICE

Trust born of trials is tempered and strong with deep roots, able to withstand the storms of life – mature, complete, and wanting nothing.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Who is the most courageous person you know? What makes them brave?
2. What is something courageous you've done? Were you anxious, nervous, or afraid? How did you feel afterward?
3. Is your courage conditional? What storms in life have stopped you from believing God will take care of you?
4. Where do you need the courage of God today?
5. What do you fear? Do your fears lead to worry, anxiety, or attempting to control people or situations?

PRAYER

Lord, we have universally struggled with fear, anxiety, doubt, and insecurities since the Fall. Such grace that You included "fear not" as one of the most repeated phrases in Your Word. Encourage our hearts as You prepare us, teaching us to wait patiently, trust You more, and step out courageously in faith as You lead. In Your Son's name, Amen.

