



STEWARDSHIP OF COURAGE

Wait for the Lord, take courage; be stouthearted, wait for the Lord!
(Psalm 27:14)

In God, we have a constant source of courage. "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior." (Isaiah 43:2-3)

More than one hundred times in His Word, God reminds us that we do not need to feel afraid, because He sees us, He knows what we're going through, and He loves us more than we can possibly imagine.

PATIENCE, TRUST, AND WAITING WELL

Courage is patient. Becoming good stewards of the courage God promises begins with patience, with learning to trust God, and with waiting well as He prepares us. It took courage for Noah to build the ark, for David to slay Goliath, for Elijah to defeat the false prophets, and for Josiah to reform the Kingdom.

"Take courage. The clouds that cover you this year may be darker than any you have yet known. They may linger long. They may seem to blot out the sun. But God knows how to take even these clouds, and through them work wonders so marvelous, so unlooked for, that they leave us on our knees in worship." (Scott Hubbard)

"God's love calls us to move beyond fear. We ask God for the courage to abandon ourselves unreservedly, so that we might be molded by God's grace, even as we cannot see where that path may lead us." (St. Ignatius Loyola)

Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong.
(1 Corinthians 16:13)



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THE COURAGE TO WAIT

Waiting is rarely easy. "When I am afraid, I will trust in You." (Psalm 56:3) Not *if* we are afraid, but *when* we are afraid.

The Bible is filled with people who experienced doubt, questions, misgivings, anxiety, and fear. They knew their limitations and weaknesses (e.g. too young, too old, unknown, inexperienced, unskilled, unqualified), yet they had been created to fulfill their Kingdom purposes, so instead of changing their circumstances or eradicating their fears, *God called them to trust him amid their trials.*

Trust became the conduit of their courage. Trust born of trials is tempered and strong, with deep roots, able to withstand the storms of life.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- What does courage look like in your life?
- How are you stewarding your measure of bravery?
- What is something courageous you've done? Were you anxious, nervous, or afraid? How did you feel afterward?
- Is your courage conditional? What storms in life have stopped you from believing God will take care of you?
- Where do you need the courage of God today?
- What do you fear? Do your fears lead to worry, anxiety, or attempting to control people or situations?
- Who is the most courageous person you know? What makes them so brave?

PRAYER

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

Do not lose your courage because it brings with it a great reward.
(Hebrews 10:35)



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