



Courage In Facing The Enemies

A Teaching Outline

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Courage will bring salvation to you.

Philippians 1:28

In no way alarmed by your opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God.

Paul encouraged the believers to be unified, as they stood “side by side, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.” How sad that much time and effort are lost in some churches by fighting against one another instead of uniting against the real opposition! It takes a courageous church to resist infighting and to maintain the common purpose of serving Christ.

Paul considered it a privilege to suffer for Christ. We do not by nature consider suffering a privilege. Yet when we suffer, if we faithfully represent Christ, our message and example affect us and others for good (see [Acts 5:41](#)).

Suffering has these additional benefits:

- (1) It takes our eyes off of earthly comforts;
- (2) It weeds out superficial believers;
- (3) It strengthens the faith of those who endure;
- (4) It serves as an example to others who may follow us.

When we suffer for our faith, it doesn't mean that we have done something wrong. In fact, the opposite is often true—it verifies that we have been faithful. Use suffering to build your character. Don't resent it or let it tear you down.

Be strong and very courageous.

Joshua 1:7

"Only be strong and very 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.

Many people think that prosperity and success come from having power, influential personal contacts, and a relentless desire to get ahead. But the strategy for gaining prosperity that God taught Joshua goes against such criteria.

He said that to succeed Joshua must

- (1) Be strong and courageous because the task ahead would not be easy,
- (2) Obey God's law, and
- (3) Constantly read and study the Book of Instruction—God's Word.

To be successful, follow God's words to Joshua. You may not succeed by the world's standards, but you will be a success in God's eyes—and his opinion is most important.

The battle belongs to God.

2 Chronicles 20:15

And he said, "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's.

As the enemy bore down on Judah, God spoke through Jahaziel: "Do not be afraid!... for the battle is not yours, but God's." We may not fight an enemy army, but every day we battle temptation, pressure, and "rulers... of the unseen world" (Ephesians 6:12) who want us to rebel against God.

Remember, as believers, we have God's Spirit in us. If we ask for God's help when we face struggles, God will fight for us. And God always triumphs. How do we let God fight for us?

- (1) Realize that the battle is not ours, but God's;
- (2) Recognize human limitations and allow God's strength to work through our fears and weaknesses;
- (3) Make sure we are pursuing God's interests and not just our own selfish desires;
- (4) Ask God for help in our daily battles.

Be not dismayed because of those in power.

2 Chronicles 32:7

"Be strong and courageous, do not fear or be dismayed because of the king of Assyria nor because of all the horde that is with him; for the one with us is greater than the one with him.

Hezekiah could see with eyes of faith. The number of his opponents meant nothing as long as he was on the Lord's side.

Victory is "not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies" (Zechariah 4:6).

Hezekiah could confidently encourage his men because he had no doubt about where he stood with God. Are you on the Lord's side?

You may never face an enemy army, but the battles you face every day can be won with God's strength.

Be strong and courageous.

Joshua 1:18

"Anyone who rebels against your command and does not obey your words in all that you command him, shall be put to death; only be strong and courageous."

When God commissioned Joshua, he was told three times to be strong and courageous. Here, Joshua was given the same kind of encouragement from the people.

Apparently, he took God's message to heart and found the strength and courage he needed in his relationship with God. The next time you are afraid to do what you know is right, remember that strength and courage are readily available from God.

Do not fear or be dismayed.

Deuteronomy 1:21

'See, the LORD your God has placed the land before you; go up, take possession, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has spoken to you. Do not fear or be dismayed

The book of Deuteronomy opens with Israel camped east of the Jordan River in the land of Moab. Just before the people crossed the river into the Promised Land, Moses delivered an inspirational speech indicating how they were to live.

The scouts had been sent into the land to determine not *whether* they should enter, but *where* they should enter.

Upon returning, however, most of the scouts had concluded that the land was not worth the obstacles. God would give the Israelites the power to conquer the land, but they were afraid of the risk and decided not to enter. God gives us the power to overcome our obstacles, but just as the Israelites were filled with fear and skepticism, we often let difficulties control our lives.

When we follow God regardless of the difficulties, we demonstrate courageous, overcoming faith.

Show courage for the sake of God's people.

2 Samuel 10:12

"Be strong, and let us show ourselves courageous for the sake of our people and for the cities of our God; and may the LORD do what is good in His sight."

There must be a balance in life between our actions and our faith in God. Joab said, "Let us fight bravely." In other words, they should do what they could, using their minds to figure out the best techniques and using their resources.

But he also said, "May the LORD'S will be done." He knew that the outcome was in God's hands.

We should use our minds and our resources to obey God, while at the same time trusting God for the outcome.

They recognized the courage of Peter and John.

Acts 4:13

Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.

Knowing that Peter and John were untrained, the council was amazed at what being with Jesus had done for them. A changed life convinces people of Christ's power. One of your greatest testimonies is the difference others see in your life and attitudes since you have believed in Christ.

Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly.

Acts 13:46

Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.

Why was it necessary for the Good News to go first to the Jews?

God planned that through the Jewish nation *all* the world would know of God (Genesis 12:3). Paul, a Jew himself, loved his people (Romans 9:1-5) and wanted to give them every opportunity to join him in proclaiming God's salvation.

Unfortunately, many Jews did not recognize Jesus as Messiah, and they did not understand that God was offering salvation to anyone, Jew or Gentile, who comes to him through faith in Christ.

Crushed and perplexed, but not despairing.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

The Corinthians had split into various cliques, each following its favorite preacher (Paul, Apollos, Peter, etc.). Each clique really believed it was the only one to have the whole truth and thus felt spiritually proud.

But Paul told the groups not to boast about being tied to a particular preacher, because each preacher was simply a humble servant who had suffered for the same message of salvation in Jesus Christ. No preacher of God has more status than another.

An invitation is given to open your heart's door.

Rev. 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

Holy Bible: Living Bible Translation

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House
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