

# BE COURAGEOUS

WHEN WE THINK OF COURAGE, WE THINK OF SOLDIERS, PEOPLE WHO SWIM WITH SHARKS OR JUMP OUT OF PLANES.

SOME THINK COURAGE IS SOMEONE WHO IS FEARLESS, ABLE TO OVERCOME ANYTHING WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT

## SHARE

THE REALITY IS, COURAGEOUS PEOPLE FACE THE ADVERSITY OR THE CHALLENGE, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE SCARED.

## 2 Timothy 1:7 New King James Version (NKJV)

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

## SHARE ABOUT POWER, LOVE, AND SOUND MIND

PAUL WROTE THIS TO TIMOTHY WHEN HE WAS IN PRISON, NOT JUST A PRISON, BUT A COLD DARK DUNGEON. HE ALSO KNEW HE WAS GOING TO BE EXECUTED

PAUL TAPPED INTO THE PEACE THAT SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING, GIVING HIM COURAGE TO FACE LIFE ON LIFE'S TERMS

THERE ARE MANY WAYS WE CAN BE COURAGEOUS, SOME OBVIOUS, SOME NOT SO OBVIOUS

I'D LIKE TO IDENTIFY SOME DIFFERENT FORMS OF COURAGE TODAY AND I'D LIKE TO USE SCRIPTURE AND THE PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE, JUST LIKE US, WHO WERE COURAGEOUS

## HAVING THE COURAGE TO:

## FACING THE GIANTS IN YOUR LIFE

THE SCENE IS SET WITH THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS SHAKING IN THEIR SANDLES BECAUSE GOLIATH WAS A GIANT THE CIRCUMSTANCES LOOKED LIKE A MORBID DEFEAT BY THE NATURAL EYE DAVID, SHOWS US WHAT FAITH IN GOD LOOKS LIKE, AND THE POWER THAT COMES BEHIND IT

**1 Samuel 17:32-37 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>32</sup> David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

<sup>33</sup> Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

<sup>34</sup> But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, <sup>35</sup> I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. <sup>36</sup> Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. <sup>37</sup> The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

DAVID'S PAST EXPERIENCE WITH ADVERSITY AND CHALLENGE HAD SHOWED HIM THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD IT HAD ALSO PREPARED HIM FOR THIS VERY DAY

IT'S THE SAME DEAL FOR US, EVERYTHING WE'VE EVER BEEN THROUGH HAS NOT BEEN IN VAIN. IT'S BEEN TOUGH, EVEN DARK AT TIMES. GOD USES ALL OF OUR PAST EXPERIENCES, EVERYTHING THAT WE LEARNED IN THE VALLIES AND THE DESERT, GOD USES TO PREPARE US FOR OUR GIANTS

DAVID MADE SOME MISTAKES IN HIS LIFE, YET GOD SAID HE WAS A MAN AFTER HIS OWN HEART. WHY? DAVID FELLOWSHIPED AND WORSHIPPED GOD INTIMATLY.

HE KNEW WHAT PAUL WRITES TO THE ROMAN CHURCH

**Romans 8:29-31 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

LOOK, WHEN WE GET THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE OF WHO GOD IS AND HOW IMPORTANT WE ARE TO HIM, WE CAN FACE THE GIANTS IN OUR LIFE WITH COURAGE

**HAVING THE COURAGE TO:**

**STAND IN FAITH WHEN WHAT YOU SEE AND FEEL MAKES YOU FEARFUL**

THIS IS MY LIFE VERSE:

**Romans 8:28 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who<sup>all</sup> have been called according to his purpose.

THIS ALSO REQUIRES LIVING A SPIRIT FILLED LIFE  
WE CANT DO THIS IN OUR OWN STRENGTH OR OUR OWN WISDOM  
INTAMACY WITH GOD WILL GIVE YOU THE COURAGE TO PRESS ON  
REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU SEE AND FEEL

JOSEPH EXPERIENCED THIS, SOLD INTO SLAVERY, LEARNED HOW TO RUN POTIPHER'S HOUSE, THROWN INTO PRISON, LEARNED HOW TO RUN A PRISON, THROUGH HIS OBEDIENCE TO GOD HE IS ABLE TO INTERPRET A DREAM FOR THE PHAROAH, HE RUNS ALL OF EGYPT AND GOD'S PLAN CONTINUES TO SUCCEED

LIKE JOSEPH, WE MUST REMEMBER, GOD HAS A PLAN FOR MY LIFE

NO MATTER WHAT, GOD HAS A PLAN AND IT'S GOOD

WHERE EVER WE ARE AT RIGHT NOW, WE TAKE THE HIGH ROAD, WE DO THE BEST WE CAN WITH WHAT WE HAVE BECAUSE WE LOVE HIM

WE PRESS THROUGH THE HUMBLING SEASONS OF LIFE BECAUSE WE UNDERSTAND ITS PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAT WE CANT SEE AND WE LEARN ALL WE CAN IN THESE SEASONS BECAUSE IT WILL BE USED LATER, AND IT WILL BE A USEFUL WEAPON

**Isaiah 32:17** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>17</sup> The fruit of that righteousness will be peace;  
its effect will be quietness and confidence forever.

HOW WE LIVE IN THE VALLEY WILL DICTATE WHAT KIND OF MOUNTAIN TOP WE WILL STAND ON

**HAVING THE COURAGE TO:**

**CHANGE**

THIS IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST CHALLENGING THINGS TO DO

CHANGE REQUIRES SOMETHING DIEING IN ORDER FOR SOMETHING NEW TO GROW

LIVING ONE WAY ALL OF OUR LIFE, ONLY TO FIND OUT THAT IT DOESN'T WORK

OUR RELATIONSHIPS HAVE SUFFERED, OUR FEELINGS HAVE RAN OUR LIVES, ANGER, SELFISHNESS, AND ALL THE OTHER ATTRIBUTES OF SELF HAVE LEFT US WANTING, WE CARRY THE DAMAGE OF OUR PAST WITH US INTO OUR RIGHT NOW, AND BECAUSE OF THE FEAR WE STAY THE SAME. WE TRY NEW PEOPLE AND NEW PLACES.....THE

SAME PEOPLE AND THE SAME PLACES EXPECTING DIFFERENT RESULTS...ONLY TO FIND OUT, NOTHING HAS REALLY CHANGED

WE SAY WE LOVE JESUS, AND WE MEAN IT, YET WE ARE STILL AFRAID TO TRY THINGS HIS WAY AND TRUST HIM

CHANGING TAKES TONS OF COURAGE, IT REQUIRES ONE TO BE **TRANSPARENT AND VULNERABLE**

IT USUALLY REQUIRES ASKING FOR HELP, BECAUSE THE SAME LIFE TOOLS THAT GOT US INTO THIS MESS CAN'T FIX US

LETS LOOK AT A RADICAL CHANGE

**Acts 9:1-6** *New International Version (NIV)*

## Saul's Conversion

**9** Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

<sup>5</sup>"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. <sup>6</sup>"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

PAUL HAS A RADICAL ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS AND IS FACED WITH CHANGE. HIS WHOLE LIFE JUST RADICALLY CHANGED

JESUS TOLD HIM TO GO AND GET DIRECTION FROM OTHERS

PAUL WAS CHANGED BUT NEEDED HELP IN THE SANCTIFICATION PROCESS. JESUS KNOWS WE NEED HELP FROM EACH OTHER. CHANGE REQUIRED PAUL TO LEARN "THE WAY" THE RIGHT WAY, HE WOULD THEN BE EFFECTIVE IN HIS CALLING

WE ARE NO DIFFERENT

THAT WAS PRETTY COURAGEOUS OF PAUL TO LEAVE HIS OLD WAY OF LIFE AND BE "ALL IN" ON THE NEW ONE. PAUL HAD IT GOING ON AND THROUGH IT ALL AWAY TO BE OBEDIENT. I IMAGINE FOR THE FIRST PART OF THAT SEASON, NOBODY TRUSTED OR LIKED HIM ON EITHER SIDE. A TRAITOR TO THE ROMANS AND A MURDERER TO CHRISTIANS

ARE YOU WILLING TO CHANGE NO MATTER WHAT PEOPLE THINK AND SAY? THAT'S COURAGE

YOU SAY YOU WANT TO BE MORE OF A GODLY MAN OR WOMAN ARE YOU WILLING TO HAVE THE COURAGE TO CHANGE? READ THE WORD, SPEND TIME WITH GOD, AND REALLY WORSHIP HIM?

YOU SAY YOU WANT A BETTER MARRIAGE ARE YOU WILLING TO HAVE THE COURAGE TO LEARN HOW TO LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY, GIVE GRACE EXCESSIVELY, FORGIVE CONSTANTLY, DIE TO THE PRIDE OF SELF DAILY ?

YOU SAY YOU WANT MORE OUT OF LIFE ARE YOU WILLING TO HAVE THE COURAGE TO DO WHAT IT TAKES TO HAVE SUCCESS? SACRIFICE, DEDICATION, FOCUS, AND CONSISTANCY

**2 Peter 1:3-4 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup> His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. <sup>4</sup> Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

EVERYTHING WE NEED TO HAVE THE COURAGE TO CHANGE IS IN JESUS AND THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. WE JUST NEED TO TRUST HIM AT HIS WORD AND BE OBEDIENT TO IT

## HAVING THE COURAGE TO:

### HEAL

MIRACLES OF PHYSICAL HEALING HAPPEN AND IT IS AWESOME WHEN IT DOES  
SOMETIMES HEALING PHYSICALLY TAKES TIME, AND REHAB, AND CONSISTANCY IN THE HEALING PROCESS

SAME GOES WITH OUR PAST

IT TAKES GREAT COURAGE TO HEAL FROM OUR PAST EXPERIENCES  
THIS USUALLY REQUIRES US TO FORGIVE EITHER OURSELVES OR OTHERS.  
SOMETIMES THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE

LETTING GO OF SOMETHING OR SOMEONE THAT BROUGHT YOU PAIN, SADNESS, DISAPPOINTMENT, AND HEARTACHE IS A MASSIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT....YOU COULD SAY IT IS SUPERNATURAL

HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF A WOMEN WHO DID WHATEVER IT TOOK TO HEAL

JESUS IS GETTING BOMBARDED BY PEOPLE, HE'S GETTING SMASHED, IT'S CROWDED WITH PEOPLE TRYING TO TOUCH HIM

Mark 5:25-34 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>25</sup> And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years.<sup>26</sup> She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. <sup>27</sup> When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, <sup>28</sup> because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." <sup>29</sup> Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

<sup>30</sup> At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

<sup>31</sup> "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?' "

<sup>32</sup> But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup> Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup> He said to her, "Daughter, **your faith** has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

SHE HAD BEEN THE SAME WAY FOR 12 YEARS, DOCTORS COULDN'T FIX HER, NO ONE COULD

SHE KNEW, IF I JUST CONNECT WITH JESUS, I WILL BE HEALED AND NO ONE IS GOING TO STOP ME!! THEN POWER WENT FROM JESUS TO HER

JESUS SAID **YOUR FAITH** HAS HEALED YOU, NOT "I HEALED YOU"

INSTEAD OF PUTTING ALL OF OUR THOUGHTS, TIME, AND ENERGY IN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY THINGS ARE THE WAY THEY ARE, INSTEAD OF LETTING THE SICKNESS, DISEASE, RESENTMENT, ANGER, DOUBT AND FEAR TAKE US OVER AND RUN OUR LIVES RUN TO JESUS...ONE TOUCH FROM JESUS WILL HEAL YOU

I DON'T KNOW WHY GOD CHOOSES TO HEAL SOME THINGS AND OTHER THINGS HE DOESN'T

I KNOW THAT THE THINGS THAT AREN'T COMPLETELY HEALED IN ME DRIVE ME TOWARD MY NEED FOR HIM AND HIS GRACE MAYBE THAT'S WHY....HIS GRACE SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR ME RIGHT?

**OUR FAITH**, REGARDLESS OF THE SITUATION OR THE PEOPLE INVOLVED WILL HEAL US

OUR FAITH IN HIS SOVEREIGNTY(SUPREME POWER AND AUTHORITY)  
OUR FAITH IN HIS WORD AND THE FACT THAT HE CANNOT LIE  
OUR FAITH IN HIS PROMISES  
OUR FAITH IN HIS COMMANDS  
OUR FAITH IN HIS LOVE AND THAT HE IS GOOD



OUR FAITH IN HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS  
OUR FAITH IN HIS FORGIVENESS  
OUR FAITH IN HIM AND HIS BLOOD THAT WAS SHED FOR OUR SIN  
OUR FAITH IN HIS RESURRECTION THAT BROUGHT US THE ABILITY TO  
RESURECT AND HAVE LIFE ETERNAL

SO, HAVE THE COURAGE TO:  
FACE YOUR GIANTS

HAVE THE COURAGE TO:  
WALK IN FAITH NOT FEAR

HAVE THE COURAGE TO:  
CHANGE BECAUSE CHANGE IS INEVETABLE

HAVE THE COURAGE TO:  
HEAL