

# Courage: Fulfilling God's Purposes for Your Life

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## I. **Courage is not simply the absence of fear. In fact, it usually means acting on God's truth or promises despite fearful circumstances or thoughts.**

- A. The exercise of courage by God's people always causes the Kingdom of God to expand in two ways: 1) in our personal lives (Luke 12:22-34), and 2) in the expansion of the Gospel to the ends of the earth (Matthew 10:16-20, 26-33).
- B. Fear was the main enemy of Israel's fulfilling the call to move into the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 1:19-21, 26-36; Joshua 1:6-9, 16-18). What is your Promised Land? What will it take to fulfill the promises of God for your life?
- C. Fear is like a highly contagious, destructive disease (Numbers 13:31-33; 14:1-9, 36-38).
  - 1. Courage manages fear and does not let it spread in your heart. Courage overcomes fear by standing in faith on God's truth and promises until the answer comes (Hebrews 10:35-39).
  - 2. There is also a love from the Father that supernaturally "drives out fear" (1 John 4:15-19; Romans 8:14-16, 31-39).
  - 3. Unbridled fear will destroy your life (Job 3:25).

## II. **"Without faith [courage] it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6).**

- A. Examples from Scripture: Noah (Hebrews 11:7), Abraham (Hebrews 11:8-10, 17-19), Moses (Hebrews 11:23-29), other Hebrew Heroes (Hebrews 11:30-34), Present-day Heroes (Hebrews 11:39-12:3)
- B. Evidently courage is highly valued by God, so it should not be surprising that He lets us experience fearful circumstances. In fact, you can look at your whole life as a journey of learning to be courageous.

## III. **How courageous people respond to the uncertainties of life**

- A. They listen to God's voice.
  - 1. God's voice drowns out man's fearful opinions and wisdom (Mark 5:35-36).
  - 2. Notice the word "courage" in the word "encourage." We desperately need other believers in our lives to encourage us so we can stay courageous and hear God's wisdom to escape our trials (Hebrews 3:12-15; Isaiah 30:15-21).
- B. Courageous people "approach God's throne of grace with confidence" so that they can receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:14-16). Life around the throne is full of worship, prayer, and faith in God's promises.
- C. Courageous people are also good receivers of the presence of the Holy Spirit. This causes them to be close to Jesus and to be very bold (Acts 1:8; 4:13-14, 29-31).

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## Utter Obedience – John Wimber

The economy of the Kingdom of God is quite simple. Every new step in the Kingdom costs us everything we have gained to date. Every new step may cost us all the reputation and security we have accumulated to that point. The disciple is always ready to take the next step. If there is anything that characterizes Christian maturity, it is the willingness to become a beginner again for Jesus Christ. It is the willingness to put our hand in His hand and say, "I'm scared half to death, but I'll go with You, Lord. I'll risk everything to go with You. You are the pearl of great price."