



BEULAH FIRST BAPTIST

Rev. Felix L. Cole, Senior Pastor

November 5, 2025

Focus: Esther – Positioned for Purpose

Week 3: Courage Under Pressure – If I Perish, I Perish.

Rev Felix L. Cole – Senior Pastor

Introduction: We all face moments of pressure, times when faith must stand tall even when obedience feels risky. Esther reminds us that courage under pressure is not about confidence in ourselves but trust in God's purpose. She teaches us that the pressure to act faithfully often comes before the reward of divine favor. Her story is a portrait of faith that moves when fear says stop.

Key Scriptures

- **Esther 4:15–17** – Esther calls for fasting and prayer before approaching the king.
- **Esther 5:1–8** – Esther approaches the king in courage and finds favor.
- **Psalms 27:14** – Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage.
- **2 Timothy 1:7** – God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind.
- **Proverbs 3:5–6** – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding

1. COURAGE BEGINS WITH CONSECRATION

Text: **Esther 4:15–17**

Before Esther approached the king, she approached God. She fasted and invited her community to join her, showing that courage begins in prayer, not power.

Truths to See:

- True courage is born in God's presence.
- Fasting prepares the heart for faithful action.
- Consecration clears confusion and builds confidence.

Application for Today: Before taking the next step, take time to seek God. Prayer transforms pressure into peace and fear into focus.

2. COURAGE COUNTS THE COST

Text: **Esther 4:11–14**

Esther understood that obedience could cost her life. Faith doesn't ignore fear. It decides that God's purpose is worth the risk.

Truths to See:

- Obedience is costly, but disobedience costs more.
- Courage grows when comfort is challenged.
- Fear may question, but faith moves forward.

Application for Today: Don't let fear make your decisions. Ask God for strength to follow Him even when the path requires sacrifice.

3. COURAGE USES WHAT'S IN YOUR HAND

Text: **Esther 5:1-5**

After prayer and fasting, Esther didn't gain new power. She used what she already had. Her access and influence became her assignment.

Truths to See:

- God never asks for what you don't have; He uses what's already in your hand.
- Faithfulness in small things produces favor in great things.
- God honors the courage to show up.

Application for Today: Identify what's in your hand. It can be your influence, compassion, or position. Use it to make a difference this week.

4. COURAGE TRUSTS GOD WITH THE OUTCOME

Text: **Esther 5:2-8**

Esther stepped forward unsure of how the king would respond, but she trusted that God was already working. Her obedience opened the door for divine favor.

Truths to See:

- Faith moves forward and leaves results in God's hands.
- Peace comes from trusting God's timing.
- Obedience invites divine intervention.

Application for Today: When you've done your part, rest knowing that God will handle the outcome. His favor meets faithful obedience.

LIFE APPLICATION

1. Pray before you proceed and let God prepare your heart for what's ahead.
2. Count the cost but trust the call. Your obedience will always be worth it.
3. Use what's in your hand to serve God and others.
4. Trust God with the outcome; His timing is always perfect.

PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What pressure are you facing right now that requires faith over fear?
2. How does prayer and fasting strengthen your courage?
3. What has God placed in your hand that He's calling you to use for His purpose?
4. What step of obedience is God asking you to take this week?