

“COURAGE IN CHAOS” II SAMUEL 10:1-14 / Life in Chaos

If you could give courage to another person to do something *(want, need, long)* in this life – what would you give them the courage to do? *To that person you love, to that person you pray for, to that person who needs some courage ...*

If you could be given the courage to do something in your life – what would you want the courage to do?

II Timothy 1:7 (ESV) for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

If you are a Christ follower *(explain)* this is true of you - but it sure doesn't feel that way sometimes - does it?

PICS of Ben & I in Yellowstone. *Story of my brother and I in Yellowstone in Grizzly country. I experienced some of the most intense physical fear I have ever known in the 24 hour period. This picture will help you understand why?*

PIC of Grizzly Bear Paw. *Fear warns of danger – but living in fear causes us to shut down. Fear moves us to stop enjoying, living, wanting to be with others, Fear moves to make dumb decisions. Live in fear long enough – and you will disobey every known way God has given us to live.*

When we are anchored in God's sovereignty – there is courage in chaos.

That is when we believe that God is the Greatest Power and Treasure and what he is up to on this earth is GRAND and GREAT – we know courage and give courage to others – even in the midst of chaos.

sovereignty of God = God is the Greatest Power and Treasure. He is in complete control, accomplishing His perfect will, for His fame and our good.

courage = The Spirit of God's power to obey His will in the face of internal or external chaos
Courage leads to seeking God's interests and making much of God's name.

#5 - fear = warns us of danger – but living in fear eventually moves us to disobey God's will
Fear leads to seeking my interests and protecting my name.

When we are anchored in God's sovereignty – there is courage in chaos.

01. What does courage from God do in us and for us?

02. How do we live in God's courage?

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(II Sam 10:1-8) The story of Joab and Abishai in battle with Ammonites and Syrians.

(cha 10:1-5) When the king of the Ammonites died – David sent servants to show his sympathy for their loss and extend his hand to continue the treaty they had with David and Israel. Hanun, the son of Nahash who had just died, and the new king was surrounded by advisers who did not trust David's motives and probably also wanted out of the treaties they had been under. They warned Hanun that David sent the men only to spy out their capital city of Rabbah to capture it. If Hanun had only wanted to protect his city and country, he could have kept the men from his city and sent the men back. But he wanted a war – to get out of the treaties – so he sets out to humiliate and dishonor the servants of David and the God of Israel. He does this by shaving off half their beards (this dishonored the men and God's law) and they cut and tore their garments in a way that they had to travel home half naked. Bottom down exposed! (This also dishonored the men and God's law).

The Ammonites – then hired the Syrians of 4 different city states to fight with them against David (30,000+ men). David seeing the threat sends out Joab and the army of Israel. When they arrive near Rabba in Ammon, they discovered they are in a bad predicament. The Ammonites come out of their city to face them and the Syrians come up from behind. In the middle of great chaos and fear – Joab responds with great courage that leads to the defeat of the Ammonites and the Syrians. Read with me and listen to his words to his brother Abishai in II Samuel 10:12.

II Samuel 10:12 (ESV) Be of good courage, and let us be courageous ²for our people, and for the cities of our God, and ³may the LORD do what seems good to him.

At this moment, Joab was living in God's courage and giving this courage to his brother.

How? He believed God was the **1** Greatest Power and Treasure - **2** accomplishing His perfect will, for His fame and their good. **3** He was in complete control, *(Responsibility in God's sovereignty)*

What did this courage do in Him and through Him? What will it do in us?

II Samuel 10:9-11 (ESV) 9 When Joab saw that the battle was set against him both in front and in the rear, he chose some of the best men of Israel and arrayed them against the Syrians. 10 The rest of his men he put in the charge of Abishai his brother, and he arrayed them against the Ammonites. 11 And he said, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me, but if the Ammonites are too strong for you, then I will come and help you.

- **God's courage allowed him to hear the wisdom of God and fight this battle that was about something far greater than himself. The kingdom of Israel and the safety of its people were at stake and the courage of God's Spirit allowed him to see this and go to war for this.**

Hanun's advisors were moved by fear and their fear-based wisdom led to a war that ruined a powerful ally and friend in David and Israel – and led the loss of many of lives in their kingdom. (vs 1-4, 6)

Living in fear leads us to hear human wisdom and moves us to fight for and protect ourselves. (vs 3)

God's courage allows us to hear Godly wisdom and choose the right battles to fight for the greater good of God's kingdom and His body.

You will hear multiple voices the rest of your life telling you what to do. Who do you listen to?

Who you listen to will determine many of the battle you will choose to fight? Choosing your battles in this life is huge. Fighting everyone and everything will lead to many unnecessary battles and wars. Standing for nothing and always giving in – will lead to many you care about being hurt.

Nicholas Ridley (bishop of London) and Hugh Latimer (bishop of Worcester) were Protestant pastors who were arrested by the Catholic Queen Mary during a time when both sides acted ungodly and brutal to one another. They were tried for heresy and burned at the stake in Oxford, England on October 16, 1555.

*Their deaths happened because they chose to fight a battle that cost them their life. The battle? They were being asked to denounce salvation through Christ alone and they could not. They believed that God was great and good and up to a great work on this earth they were getting to be a part of it. And they said in their trial. We cannot say yes to your question without defaming God – so "may the Lord do to us what seems good to him," (from vs 12) but we will not make your confession. **I stood in the street on the place they were burned alive and I remember asking God – I want this kind of courage – not only to die like this for you, but to LIVE like this for you in the midst of other voices (some my own) that call me to" tone it down or shhhh!"***

Courage allows us to hear Godly wisdom and choose the right battles to fight for the greater glory of God's kingdom and His body.

II Samuel 10:12 (ESV) Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people, and for the cities of our God, and may the LORD do what seems good to him." *Who was he speaking to – pouring courage into ...*

- **God's courage moved him to speak courage into his brother's life.**

Fear caused Hanun's advisors to speak fear into Hanun. Hanun had seen the good of the relationship his father and David had. In one huge fear dump into his life – he isolated himself from David and made an enemy of David.

Fear moves us to isolation and to pour fear into others which often moves us far from God's life giving ways.

God's courage allows us to pour courage into others so we can walk together in the life giving ways of God.

When marriage or our friendships get attacked, often our first instinct because of fear is to isolate, pull away, and do this alone. God wants us to press into the sisters or brothers around us asking them to war with us for our marriage or our friendship. If we live in this fear – we will isolate ourselves and – we will eventually pour fear into everyone around us. We will nurture a fearful marriage, fearful relationships, and fearful kids. The result of all this fear – we end up far from the life giving ways of God. We end up living a fake life of religious appearance to please others or God. And, eventually as we see this kind of religion is of little use and actually frustrates us – we will walk away from the love and ways of God. The end result – will be a lot of destruction, loss, and death in our marriage, our relationships, and our children.

Latimer encouraged Ridley as the flames rose, "Be of good comfort, Mr. Ridley, and play the man! We shall this day light such a candle by God's grace, in England, as I trust never shall be put out." In 1604 when King James of England was having scholars translate the bible into English for the first time – they came to this passage in II Samuel about Joab and Abishai and when they selected the English words and phrases to translate the Hebrew phrase here – they translated it this way:

II Samuel 10:12 (KJV) Be of good courage, and let us play the men ...

They choose Latimer's words to Ridley – "play the man" because this phrase at this time in England had become synonymous with telling another to act courageously. Their deaths had only happened 50 years previously. Latimer's words had lit a flame in England for the cause of Christ. Shortly after this – revival swept over the country for hundreds of years. And even more – their story – even if only by a short phrase – found its way into the scripture in the King James Version – forever – to encourage us.

Courage, courage from the Spirit of God moves us to play the man, or the woman carrying out God's will for His fame and our good. And God longs to give that courage to your spouse, your daughter, your friend, your dad – through you!

God wants to pour his courage into us – and see it poured through us into others. But often we are dispensers of fear way more than we are dispensers of courage. Why?

We all want to be Joab in this story or at the least his brother – Abishai. But the truth is we are more like Hanun. Full of fear and more often than not pouring fear into others. **I want courage.** I want to pour courage by my words and my actions into my wife, my boys, into you, into the men I walk with in life in this body.

DO YOU want to be a woman or man who lives in and pours courage into others?

How do we live in the courage of God so we can pour courage into our spouse, our friends in this body, in our kids?

We can be like a coach or a motivational speaker living in van by the river who fires people up for a moment – but if you want to give them courage to follow after the life giving ways of God – you must have the courage that comes from God.

02. How do we live in God's courage? ... the courage of God's Spirit

II Samuel 10:12 (ESV) Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people, and for the cities of our God, and **may the LORD do what seems good to him.**"

When we are anchored in God's sovereignty – there is courage in chaos.

So how do we anchor ourselves in the sovereignty of God?

Practically – how do we move from paralyzing fear – to knowing God's courage to follow Him in the midst of fear?

1) We must ask God to help us trust the eternal declaration of the cross – God is sovereign.

Ephesians 1:4, 7 (NLT) 4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 7 He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

The cross reveals God's ultimate sovereignty as it declares:

- God planned the cross before time began and made it happen.
- In the cross, God fixed the ultimate problem on this earth – our sin.

He is the Greatest Power – Accomplishing His perfect will for His fame and our good. God chose to fix what we could not – our sin.

- In the cross, God fixed the ultimate problem on this earth – by punishing himself and not us.

Stop and grasp this for a moment – 1) this is like the bank who holds the note on your house paying off the mortgage on your house which is never done but even greater, 2) this is like a judge sentencing himself to prison in your place – which is never done but even greater, 3) God took everyone's guilt and shame and put it all on His only Son Jesus – so you and I could be with Him now and forever.

This shows He is the Greatest Treasure – who else would fix our greatest problem by punishing His Son. What great love!

The cross declares with a loud and eternal voice – God alone is sovereign over all things.

Ask God to help you believe that He alone is All Powerful and the Great Treasure – that he alone is in control of all things, accomplishing His will for His name and our good.

We are all afflicted with Gospel ignorance and amnesia – that is we don't know the depths of what God has done for us in the cross or even as we begin to learn, we are constantly living with no memory of how vital the gospel – Jesus' work on the cross – is to our daily lives. Here is one great example: when we forget the cross declares with loud proof that God is sovereign – we often lose courage and live in the fear that surrounds us and calls us to listen to foolishness and lies of fear – believing it is wisdom and truth! So ask God to help you trust ...

2) Our trust in God's sovereignty will grow as **together**, we ...

- saturate our hearts and minds in His word that reveals the eternal depths of the cross.
- pray and submit to the Holy Spirit's control – his sovereign rule in us. **(he lives in – you must submit)**

Community Groups, DNA Groups, Sunday's teachings, - together - all these require one another.

To wrap this up: Let me share a few stories of how God is doing this in our midst:

1. **The Sharing Shed** is a story of God pouring courage into three ladies – Vicki, Terry, and Sherry. Vicki started the Shed, Terry unofficially led it at one point, and Sherry leads it now. All were or are volunteers working other jobs. Each believed God was asking them to do something for him – and each required courage to follow him. We have a life changing, community changing ministry that affects many people who serve and are served because these ladies walked in and are still walking in the courage God gave them through His Spirit in the midst of fear. They are not super heroes – just ladies who have allowed the courage of God's Spirit to move them into places they would have and never could have imagined going.

2. **Anthony Schultz is one of our elders** – Several years ago he wrestled through the idea of job change. He is in pharmaceutical industry and was wrestling with jumping into a staff position here at the Summit. I believe one of the most courageous things I have ever seen a man do – he did. He stayed at his job bc he believed that is where he could have the greatest impact for the kingdom. Took courage from God to do so. Today – he knows, as many of you are learning, he has a sacred job. He sees himself as a minister at his work place – and is helping many men and women see the same calling.

3. **LIFT Disability Network** aids the disability family with a variety of programs that include camps, social services, mentoring, mental health & family counseling, social events, and spiritual development. Jim Hukill and his wife Rhonette are the Executive Directors of LIFT. At the age of 21 months he was diagnosed with a rare form of Muscular Dystrophy. According to his story – the chaos this disease has brought has been great, but the things God has let him do have been greater.

This ministry came to be a part of our church family in 2015 when our own Josh and Heather Pennington went on staff with LIFT. This great leap of faith for Josh and Heather came in simple obedience but in the midst of lots of obstacles. Go out to the LIFT website <https://liftdisability.net> and under the "Team" tab you can read about Josh and even see a video of his story that we filmed here. *There is another who anchored in God's sovereignty, pours courage into us.*

4. **Jesus** – He came to this earth all God and all man. He spent 30 years living the perfect life we were called to live – he gave, served, worked, loved, prayed, cried, celebrated birthdays, got tired, hungry, felt rejection, pain, joy, hurt, hope, and more. For 30 years he lived life. Then for a little more than three years – God turned him loose to live the life we couldn't live – he healed blind eyes, raised dead bodies, restored families, forgave hopeless sinners, redeemed broken lives, and more. **But he needed the courage of the Holy Spirit to live this life.** Satan attacked him – just like we are attacked and he leaned on God's word which reminded Him of His Father's sovereignty and he submitted to the Spirit's power and courage and lived victoriously Satan's attacks. And then on the last day of his life – he did what we absolutely needed the most – he allowed himself to be hung on a cross bearing the weight of our guilt and shame. But hours before he went there – **he needed the courage of the Spirit.** He pleaded for God to come up with another plan – **but ultimately he prayed – Lord, your will.** Sounds a lot like the words of Job. Because both came from the Spirit of God. **In the Spirit's courage and power– He went to the cross, stayed on the cross, died on the cross – and rose from the dead. So you and I could be made holy so we could be home to God's Holy Spirit that alone gives us the courage and power to live this life in God's will.**

You may desire to give the courage of God to another right now – the question is could you?
Does the courage of God live in you through His presence – to give to another?

- 1) Trust Christ with your soul.
- 2) Submit to His Spirit's sovereign control in you and through you
- 3) Saturate yourself in His word – to believe He is sovereign
- 4) Get around others – and God will lead you to give his courage away through His word

Fear moves us to walk away from God and his life giving ways.

Anchored in God's sovereignty – we have His courage to live and give to others.