

Take Courage: Moving from Promise to Possession

Fear is the greatest barrier standing between you and God's promises. While many Christians wait for courage to come naturally or for fear to disappear, God calls us to actively take courage and step into what He has already given us.

What Does It Mean to Take Courage?

Courage isn't something that falls into your lap or arrives on a silver platter. It's something you must deliberately seize and walk in. When God commands us to "be strong and of good courage," He's not suggesting we feel brave - He's commanding us to act courageously regardless of our feelings.

Courage vs. Fear: Two Opposing Spirits

Fear is a spirit - an evil spirit that God has not given us. According to 2 Timothy 1:7, "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, of love and a sound mind." When you feel afraid, recognize that you've taken on a spirit that doesn't belong to you.

Fear will cause you to back down, but courage will cause you to take ground. The choice is yours every single day.

Learning from Israel's Two Generations

The First Generation: Paralyzed by Fear

God gave Israel the Promised Land, but the first generation failed to possess it. When twelve spies were sent to scout the land, ten returned saying "we are not able" because the giants were "too big." They saw themselves as grasshoppers in the giants' sight and convinced the entire nation to turn back in fear.

The Second Generation: Empowered by Courage

Joshua and Caleb, the only two spies who believed they could take the land, lived to see a second chance. When the second generation stood at the threshold of promise, God's command through Moses was clear: "Be strong and of good courage. Do not fear or be afraid of them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6).

The difference wasn't the size of the giants - they were the same. The difference was perspective and response to God's promise.

Why Do We Need Courage?

You Don't Need Courage to Stay Where You Are

Courage is only required when you're ready to move forward. If you're content with your current situation, you can remain comfortable. But if you're not satisfied and sense God calling you to something more, courage becomes essential.

Courage Bridges Doubt and Destiny

Courage serves as the bridge between where you are and where God wants you to be. Your destiny often waits on the other side of a courageous decision. Many people miss their breakthrough because they're waiting for fear to leave first, but that's not how it works.

What Courage Is and Isn't

Courage Is Not Self-Confidence

True biblical courage isn't confidence in your own abilities. It's God-confidence - knowing that without Him you can do nothing, but with Him all things are possible. Courage flows from understanding your identity in Christ and Christ's identity in you.

Courage Is Confident Action

When God tells you to be courageous, He's already provided everything you need to obey that command. He doesn't give unjust commands. If He tells you to do something, He's equipped you for it.

The Promise of God's Presence

"I Go With You"

God doesn't send you out alone. Just as Jesus called Peter to walk on water and was there to catch him when he doubted, God goes before you in every situation. His presence is your guarantee of success when you step out in faith.

"I Will Not Leave You or Forsake You"

This isn't just a comforting thought - it's the foundation of courage. Knowing that God's presence never leaves you gives you the confidence to face any giant, cross any threshold, and possess any promise.

From Hearing to Possessing

Many Are Waiting for What God Has Already Given

The Bible tells us that God "has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness." The issue isn't that God hasn't provided - it's that we haven't learned to access and possess what's already ours.

Don't Give It a Second Thought

Sometimes overthinking kills opportunity. While wisdom and counsel have their place, there are moments when the Holy Spirit leads you to act immediately. When you sense God's direction, don't analyze it to death - step out in faith.

Jesus' Final Word on Courage

In John 16:33, Jesus gave us the ultimate encouragement: "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." The phrase "be of good cheer" literally means "take courage" in the original Greek. It means to grasp, receive, and seize deliberately.

Jesus isn't minimizing the reality of difficulties - He's reminding us that He's already won the victory. Our courage comes from knowing that whatever we face, He has already overcome it.

Life Application

This week, identify one area where fear has kept you from stepping into what God has promised you. It might be a decision you've been avoiding, a step of obedience you've been postponing, or a promise you've been waiting for rather than possessing.

Remember: fear doesn't leave first - courage steps in first. Don't wait for the feelings of fear to disappear before you move. Take courage, knowing that God goes with you and will not abandon you.

Questions for Reflection:

- What "promised land" has God shown you that you haven't yet possessed?
- Where have you been waiting for God to give you something He's already provided?
- What would change in your life if you truly believed that God goes with you in every situation?
- How might your courage in stepping forward impact not just your life, but the lives of those around you?

The time for waiting is over. Take courage and cross the bridge into your destiny.

Verses

1. 2 Corinthians 1:20
2. Deuteronomy 31:6
3. 2 Timothy 1:7
4. Isaiah 41:10
5. Psalm 27:1
6. John 16:33
7. Numbers 13
8. Numbers 14
9. 1 Samuel 17