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Episode 213 - Courage
How do you make yourself more courageous?
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Jerry Green:

Welcome, friends, to this special podcast as we kick off the ninth season of Faith Made Simple with our pastor-teacher, Todd Smith. I'm Jerry Greene, your host. If you've been a faithful listener, you know Pastor Todd has a passion for explaining God's Word. Understanding and obeying God's Word is key in the Christian life—James 1:25 assures us that God blesses his children when we're faithful and obedient. So let's listen now as Todd shares his thoughts for today.

Todd Smith:

Hey everybody—happy new year and welcome to season nine of Faith Made Simple. This January we're focusing on foundational Christian character traits to help you have a strong 2026. Today's trait: courage.

Everything worthwhile in life seems uphill, and to climb that hill—to lead a family, a church, or simply your own life—you have to lead with courage. Courage is not the absence of fear; it's the willingness to do what's right even when you're afraid. Fear is universal; courage is a choice. That daily decision to act despite our feelings separates those who finish well from those who fade.

Look at Joshua. After forty years of wandering and with Moses gone, Joshua faced a land full of walls, giants, and flooded rivers. God gave him a short, repeated command in Joshua 1—“Be strong and courageous.” The repetition matters: courage isn't a one-time burst of adrenaline; it's a muscle you exercise daily.

Courageous people face reality, take responsibility, initiate action, and keep going when others quit. Joshua sent spies and accepted the hard facts. He didn't blame the previous generation—he took the mission God placed on him. He told the people, “Prepare your provisions in three days—we're crossing the Jordan.” That looked risky, even foolish, but courageous leaders are willing to look foolish for a season when obedience demands it. After setbacks he humbled himself, corrected sin, and pushed forward.

So ask yourself: what would you do if you weren't afraid? That question exposes the gap between where you are and where God wants you to be, and that gap is bridged by a courageous step. Courage is contagious—when Joshua stepped into the river, the waters parted and a nation learned obedience. Maybe God is asking you for a courageous step this

week: a conversation, a stand, a costly obedience. Start scared and trust God in the middle of your obedience. The size of your courage will determine the size of your life—small courage keeps you safe; big courage changes the world.

Jerry Green:

Thanks, Todd. Courage asks us to leave our comfort zone—how do we become more courageous?

Todd Smith:

Wouldn't it be great to buy a bottle of courage at Costco? Real courage comes from exercising trust in God's character. Faith and courage are two sides of the same coin. Start small: take little steps of trust daily so the muscle grows. When the big test comes, you'll be ready. Courage isn't the absence of fear—it's saddling up and going anyway.

Jerry Green:

Wonderful. That brings us to the close of our first episode of season nine. Lord willing, we'll be back next week with another podcast. If you're local, visit us at Crossroads Community Church in Valencia, California, where God's Word is taught faithfully, verse by verse. For more information about the podcast or the church, visit FaithMadeSimple.net. On behalf of Todd and the Faith Made Simple team, we look forward to our next visit. Until then, remain faithful and be a doer of God's Word.