

A Faith that Prevails
Part 3
“Faith & Courage”

Ephesians 6 NKJV

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood**, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Acts 4 NIV

5 The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. **6** Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest’s family. **7** They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: “By what power or what name did you do this?”

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! **9** If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, **10** then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. **11** Jesus is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.”

12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Courage: boldness, unreserved in speech, fearless confidence, cheerful courage, assurance

Peter and John had a courage that was confident, unreserved...
Their confidence was not in themselves it was in God...
They had a God Confidence...

Where did it come from?

Lets go back to the beginning of the story.

Acts 3

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. **2** Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. **3** When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. **4** Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” **5** So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. **6** Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” **7** Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong.

“A man who is intimate with God is not intimidated by man.” — Leonard Ravenhill

Good things happen when we draw close to God...

Have you noticed that?

- The best stories of your life...
- The best memories...
- The best people...
- The most meaningful accomplishments come when you are close to God...

What Peter and John did required them to have Courage...

Can I tell you Faith and Courage go hand in hand...

This kind of Courage comes when we spend time with God...

The Bible says: *“One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer”*

Right there it is...

Oh don’t look past this one simple thing...

They were going up to the temple at the time of prayer...

*What separated Peter and John from the rest of the crowd?
They were spending time with Jesus and it was evident to their accusers...*

Acts 4

13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

*There was a courage for Miracles...
There was a courage in them when facing an Anti-Christ Council...*

18 Then they (Sanhedrin) called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. **19 But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! 20** As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

21 After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. **22** For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

The Believers Pray

23 On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. **24** When they heard this, **they raised their voices together in prayer to God.**

“Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. **25** You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

“Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?

26

The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the Lord
and against his anointed one.’

27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. 29 **Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.** 30 **Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”** 31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

There is a boldness that comes from God...

There is an impartation of courage when you spend time with Him...

The fountain of God is poured out on those who want Him...

He meets us when we seek him in Prayer...

1 Samuel 17

1 Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah.

4 A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp.

16 For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.

26 David asked the men standing near him, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

32 David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”

33 Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.”

34 But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock,

35 **I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When**

it turned on me, **I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it.** ³⁶ Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God.

37 The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you.”

⁴¹ Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. ⁴² He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. ⁴³ He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!”

⁴⁵ David said to the Philistine, **“You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty,** the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”

⁴⁸ As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. ⁴⁹ Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

⁵⁰ So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

You know what David wasn’t: A boy full of the news...

You know what David was: A boy who just came from the far side of the field where he had been singing love songs to God...

Revelation 12

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

The Blood of the Lamb = The Work of God (Vs. 37)

The Word of their Testimony = Their Story of what God has done (Vs.35)

Not loving their lives even unto death = Willing to die for their Faith (Vs. 45)

You want to know how the Church Overcomes in the last days?

- **by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and not loving our lives even unto death.**

Ephesians 6 NKJV

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2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.