



# SUNDAY EVENING

## AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Title:** Authentic Courage

**Passage:** 1 John 5:13-21

**Speaker:** Associate Pastor David Wood

**Introduction:** The truth is, many of us spend too much of our Christian life either discouraged or fearful, and it keeps us from experiencing the victory God intends. But we are not called to live in defeat or to be paralyzed by anxiety—we are called to live with confidence and joy in Christ. Through Him we have courage to step out in faith, strength to endure trials, and boldness to serve even when the road is uncertain. God has not left us powerless; He has given us His promises, His Spirit, and His presence. The question we must each answer is this: will we live in defeat and fear, or will we rise up with confidence and courage, trusting that through Christ we can do all things for His glory?

### I. How Courage Starts (Verses 13-15)

#### A. Assurance of Eternal Life

*“So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.” (Hebrews 13:6)*

When you have a Heavenly Father who is all-knowing, all-powerful and always near, there is no need to live in fear and doubt.

*“Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He*



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*that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. (1 John 4:17-19)*

The love of God and closeness to the Father is the foundation of our confidence and courage. Knowing that God has given you eternal life should bring assurance, hope, and boldness to accomplish His will for our lives.

### B. Boldness in Prayer

#### 1. The Basis of Confidence

Our boldness rests in Christ, not ourselves.

#### 2. The Boundary of Prayer

True prayer aligns with God's will, not selfish desire.

#### 3. The Blessing of Prayer

Sometimes, God is accomplishing a purpose that is greater than our suffering.

*"Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision. When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him. And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews." (Acts 12:5-11)*



## II. How Courage is Sustained (Verses 16-18)

Courage is sustained by properly dealing with sin regularly.

*“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”*  
*(Proverbs 14:34)*

When you are part of a church, your sin doesn't just affect you; It affects the whole church body and it affects the mission that God has placed us here for.

*“And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.”* (1 Corinthians 12:26)

When we see a brother sinning, John encourages us to pray for them, intercede, and God can grant life and restoration.

Courage is sustained by daily holiness and loving intervention when others stumble.

## III. How Courage is Strengthened (Verses 19-21)

### A. Knowing Your Position in Christ

The world is dark, corrupt, and under Satan's sway—but that's not where we belong.

Courage grows when we live out our identity as children of God rather than blending into the world.

### B. Knowing the Person

We're not guessing, we're not clinging to myths—we know the true God and eternal life in Him.

Courage grows when our confidence is rooted in truth, not opinion or culture.

### C. Guarding Against Pretenders



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Idols aren't always statues—they're anything that steals our heart away from God.

Courage isn't just started or sustained—it grows stronger when we see clearly who we are in Christ, who He truly is, and when we refuse the cheap substitutes the world offers.

**Conclusion:** God didn't save you so you could live always downcast. He didn't save you so you could live paralyzed by fear. He saved you so you could live with authentic courage with joy and boldness, confident in the God who loves you. This is a fitting end to our series on Overflowing Joy. John's message is clear: if you'll rest in Christ, deal with sin, and guard your heart from idols, you'll live with courage and joy this world can't take away. I don't want to live my life defeated and fearful — Do you want to live courageous, confident, and joyful in Jesus? You can!



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