

Study Guide Questions

Series: 2:8 Courage

Message: Common Enemies to Courage

Speaker: Jay Haugh

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Combat Tactic #1 for courage is *confession*.

We confess our guilt. We confess our shame.

We confess our fear. We must bring it to light. We bring fear to light before God and others.

Oftentimes when we bring sin to light, it loses its power.

Read Galatians 5:16-17. The conviction of the Holy Spirit produces in us an internal conflict when we sin. We are to respond to this conviction of the Holy Spirit through confession to God and other believers.

Read 1 John 1:8-10

- What are the barriers to confession that you experience?
- Do you have people in your life who are trusted, mature believers who you can confess to?
- How have you responded when people have confessed sin to you? Do you try and make them feel better by providing excuses for their sin or do you lean into the work of the Spirit and speak truth with love?
- How can you be a trusted, mature person who others view as able to hear their confession?

Share about a time when you confessed your sin and found healing and joy on the other side. This can be referred to as *reverse buyers remorse*. It hurts a lot up front but after you do it, there is release, joy & healing. Celebrate and reinforce the spiritual discipline of Confession.

Combat Tactic #2 for courage is the *Holy Spirit's power*.

Read Acts 5:17-32. Amidst the threat of jail and persecution the Apostles show courage and living in the power of the Holy Spirit by being obedient to God not man.

- How is this narrative an encouragement to you in your faith journey?
- Share about a time when you lived in the courage of the Holy Spirit's power.
- What keeps you from living in courage more often? What can you do to overcome this barrier?

Combat Tactic #3 for courage is *God's promises*. There is divine power in His promises.

Power for life. Power for godliness. Power to live and look differently. It's a power that isn't self-wrought. It's given by the Spirit.

Read John 17:13-19 & 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

- Do you believe and trust in the promises found in Scripture?

- What is a promise in Scripture that you meditate on regularly?
- How have the promises in Scripture helped you maintain your focus on God and what He says is true?

Read James 5:13-16

- James says that we should pray whether we are in trouble, happy or sick. Do you find that you pray more when you are happy and thankful or when you are in need? Why do you think that is?
- What are some common negative responses to suffering?
- Based upon this passage, how should a believer respond to suffering?
- Will God always take the trial away from us?
- What are some reasons God may choose not to heal someone?
- What does a prayerful attitude show about our heart?

What is a step of courage you will take this week?