

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

Courage That Is Ever-Present December 17, 2024 Suzi Armstrong

'Courage' is defined as:

- Mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.
- To be alert physically or mentally, to prevail, to strengthen oneself, to be determined, to persist, to be resolute, to be sure.

Courage is rooted in trusting God. Through trusting Him and believing He is for us, that God has us and we are not alone, courage rises up from our inner man, permeating our thoughts, actions, and attitudes. Through trust, courage emboldens us to be brave and strong, to advance, to stand, to face challenges and obstacles, to overcome and go beyond. Courage is the grit inside of us that causes us to rise up and face our fears. That "grit" is God-given. 'Courage' in Greek can also be translated as the word 'good cheer' and it literally means boldness and confidence. In scripture God will often say, "Fear not" which means be of good cheer, trust God, be encouraged that God is with you – rise up in courage.

Faith and courage work together to give us vision for the future. Having a vision for the future feeds courage. Seeing with the eyes of your heart how that situation or circumstance looks in righteousness feeds courage and releases strategies. God empowers the eyes of our heart to see the hope that He has for us, for our family, our City and Nation. Courage travels through this path, and again, it is all rooted in trusting God – not leaning on our own understanding. Then we move out in courage on a word. Just like Peter did when, through faith and courage, he walked on the water. God declares to us that He is our ever-present God. He never leaves us or forsakes us. He is always there. We can be confident and of good cheer, and courageous at all times.

Joshua 1.6, 9 NIV

⁶ **Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people** to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

⁹ Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."**

- God told Joshua that he needed courage for his assignment. We, too, will lead people, lead our family and friends – be filled with God's ever-present courage.

There is a sound of courage in Heaven, and it is being released in the earth, in Detroit, in our neighborhoods, in our families and workplaces, and in our hearts. Incline your ear and hear the sound of strength and courage. Transact with the sound of Heaven – receive what the Lord is sending out. Be strong and courageous. Fasten yourself to the Lord and be filled with His might, His power, His strength, His glory, His wisdom, His knowledge, and His understanding. The whole earth is in eagerly waiting for sons of God to be revealed.

2 Samuel 4.1 NIV

¹ When Ish-Bosheth son of Saul heard that Abner had died in Hebron, **he lost courage, and all Israel became alarmed.**

- Courage is a matter of the heart.

2 Chronicles 32.7 NIV

⁷ **"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged** because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for **there is a greater power with us than with him.**

Matthew 14.26-29 NIV

²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and **cried out in fear.**

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: **"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."**

²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

²⁹ "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

- Peter believed the word Jesus spoke, was emboldened with courage and faith, and defied physical laws. And he walked on the water.
- Jesus said that man does not live by bread alone but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. The proceeding that the Lord speaks to you links you to great courage.

Acts 27.25-26 NIV

²⁵ **So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.**

²⁶ Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

John 18.37 NASB

³⁷ Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this purpose I have been born, and for this **I have come into the world: to testify to the truth.**

Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

- Jesus is the Living Word. The Word of Truth. The Word of God. The governing power behind all things.
- He sustains everything by the power of His word.
- The Voice of Truth is filled with strength and courage.

2 Samuel 22.33 NIV

³³ **It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure.**

Acts 4.12-14 NIV

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.** ¹⁴ But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.

Psalms 92.10 TPT

¹⁰ **Your anointing has made me strong and mighty.**

You've empowered my life for triumph by pouring fresh oil over me.

Psalms 31.24 TPT

²⁴ **So cheer up! Take courage, all you who love him.**

Wait for him to break through for you, all who trust in him!

PRAYER AND DECLARATION:

To Detroit and to Michigan, **our confidence is in Almighty God and His unfailing love!** Father, You are limitless. All power and authority belong to You. Let the fear of the Lord fall upon the City of Detroit and all of Michigan. The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His unfailing love, to deliver us from the clutches of death. The plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. We declare that Detroit is strong and courageous in the Lord. We overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. We declare a new sound and a new testimony of Jesus is arising in our hearts and in our land! It is the sound of courage, it is the sound of hope, it is the sound of the gospel of Jesus Christ, it is the sound of righteousness and justice.