

Courage

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: 10X

Text: Joshua 1:9, 2 Timothy 1:7

~ Winston Churchill – Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities... because it is the quality which guarantees all others.

~ Karl Barth - Courage is fear that has said it's prayers.

~ Mark Twain – Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not the absence of fear.

All of us face challenges, setbacks, problems, fears, opposition, opinions and unfamiliar situations that we must deal with. There will be times when we must take moral stands that are unpopular with others. Each of these situations require the courage to face them, strength to speak up and to communicate well and press through.

Courage is doing what you are afraid to do. There can be no courage unless you are scared. Those who are 10X understand this. Courage is not doing something when fear has worn off. It is doing something that requires action, especially when we are afraid. That is the essence of courage.

- Courage begins with an inward battle. Every test we face begins inside of us and the test of courage is no different. All significant battles are waged within ourselves. It is doing those things that you are afraid to do. There is always a moment of victory within before there is a step of faith on the outside.

- Courage is making things right, not just smoothing them over.

~ Martin Luther King JR. – The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience. But where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

Those who are 10X take a stand when needed. Courage deals with principle not with perception. If you don't have the ability to see when to stand up and the conviction to do it, you will never be 10X. Our dedication to principle must remain stronger than our desire to appease others.

- Courage is contagious - so is cowardice.

~ Billy Graham – When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are stiffened.

A show of courage by any person encourages others and shows them what courage looks like. Courage inspires others to do the right thing. Courage is the willingness to confront and act boldly in times of crisis.

- Those who are 10X understand that when fear is allowed to be the **deciding** factor, they are severely limited.

~ The Historian Tacitus – The desire for safety stands against every great and noble enterprise.

Courage has the opposite effect. It opens doors. Those who take risks and those who do not still experience the **same** amount of fear. The difference is that those who take chances have the opportunity to overcome. You can either run from fear or face it head on. You **gain** strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the things that you think that you cannot do.

Courage is essential to bring about **change**. Many people do not lack **insight** into the things that need to happen, but lack the courage to do anything about it. Those who are 10X have the **guts** and the nerve to say publicly what everyone else is whispering privately. They are willing to speak up when everyone else is silent and they are willing to **act** on what needs to be done. The courage to act, confront and stand up is what sets those who are 10X apart from others.

Throughout the Bible God **commanded** people to be strong and to take courage. Usually when God calls someone to do something it is much bigger than they can handle on their own and they are smart enough to know it. Yet God commanded them anyway.

Fear means to have unpleasant emotion caused by the belief or thought of harm, **pain** or failure. The desire of that emotion is to **run** away or to take flight. All of us will face the “fight or flight” syndrome at some point. The truth is we are all more prone to self-preservation.

When God told Joshua to take courage, He wasn’t telling him to not **feel** fear. Instead, God told him to be courageous because He would be with him. Throughout the Word, God reminds His people that He is always with them. The very reason that we have not to fear IS that God is with us. **Deut. 31:5, Isaiah 41:10, Mark 6:50, Rev. 1:17** Knowing that God is with us and that God is for us is our **source** of courage. We don’t need to know all the how’s and when’s, just that He will.

Many people mistakenly believe that as long as they feel fear that they cannot or **should** not do what they feel needs done or what God is leading them to do. The truth is we can waste our lives and miss many opportunities while waiting for fear to just go away. God’s desire is to give us courage in the presence of fear and refusing to allow fear to stop us.

Fear is like walking into darkness. Even if a room is familiar, in the dark there is **uncertainty**. The reality is life is full of uncertainties, what gives us courage is that we serve a certain, faithful, and unchanging God. When we serve God, we can be afraid, but we are not in danger.

Fear defies logic. Information only goes so far. Those who are 10X understand that it is in the dark times that we have the greatest **opportunities**. Many times, what we fear the most is the **unknown**. Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.

It is the darkness that keeps the average person from stepping outside of what appears to be safe and secure. Those who are 10X are not always the first to see an opportunity, but they are the first to **seize** the opportunity. The first to act. All of Israel saw Goliath as a big problem. David saw Goliath as too big to miss.

Unbridled fear results in **missed** opportunities. Sometimes you have to do them when you are afraid. **Psalm 56:3-4** At some point all of us deal with fear. Fear is not a lack of ideas; it is what keeps most people and their ideas on the sidelines. The key to courage when we are afraid is to trust God. He is greater than we are and greater than our fears and insecurities.

David was courageous but he was not **careless**. While he would not take Saul's armor, he did not face the giant unprepared. **1 Samuel 17:40** There is a difference between acting courageously and carelessly. Those who are 10X are always careful. There is no valor in being reckless. Those who are careless are actually being **thoughtless** about a situation and those involved. True risk takers are calculated therefore those with courage have counted the cost of their action or inaction. **Luke 14:28**

David did not rush Goliath on adrenalin and thoughts of fame and glory. He wasn't caught up in the moment. He took his **time**, chose his stones carefully and took his enemy seriously. Courage requires confidence and **caution**. We always must be sure that we do not mask our fear as being careful.

Contrasts between careful and fearful.

- Careful is thoughtful – fearful is **emotional**
- Careful is fueled by information – fearful is fueled by **imagination**
- Careful calculates risk – fearful **avoids** risk
- Careful wants to achieve success – fearful wants to avoid **failure**
- Careful is concerned about progress – fearful is concerned about **protection**

Saul and his soldiers were fearful and did nothing. David was careful and moved cautiously but in the power of God. **1 Samuel 17:45-46**

As long as Satan can stop you with fear he will. It is when we **confront** it that the feelings will eventually go away. **James 4:7** You must **resist** fear. The only way to get over the fear of flying is to get on the plane. Sometimes you do it afraid. That doesn't mean you have to jump out of the plane. Fear like most bullies will back down when confronted. When it does not, God will give us power over it.

Some fears are based on real **facts**. Fire burns, running into traffic kills, jumping off a cliff defies the law of gravity. Caution and respect for dangerous things and situations is healthy.

Sometimes courage simply looks like getting up every day and doing life while you **trust** God. Freedom from fear doesn't mean that it does not exist. It is the refusal to allow fear to **control** your thoughts, decisions, and actions.

God offers us courage, and Satan offers us fear. The choice of which to accept is up to us. **Judges 20:22(NKJV, AMP)** God commanded Joshua to **take** courage and the men of Israel took courage and **strengthened** themselves. Courage is always **available** to us. It is not something that we stir up within ourselves. It is something we must receive from God. It is when we choose to take courage that fear cannot take up residence inside of us.

We usually like to focus on getting rid of a problem, what we need to focus on is receiving the answer to the problems we face. What we **focus** on is what develops in our lives.

Colossians 3:2, Philippians 4:8, Psalm 121:2

If we focus on being courageous instead of focusing on not being afraid, we will find ourselves walking in **boldness**. As a person thinks so are they. You will never become more than what you believe and think about. This is why we are to focus on God and allow Him to renew our mind. This is what allows our courage to become greater than our fears.

To have courage we need a lot of **encouragement**. **Deuteronomy 31:6** God encouraged Moses, Moses encouraged Joshua, David encouraged himself in the Lord. Satan wants to **discourage** us; he wants to block or hinder the courage God has for us. God gives us boldness, faith, confidence, and courage but we have to use them. The more we use them the stronger they become.

God has given us the Holy Spirit to be both our comforter and our encourager. Those who are 10X allow the Holy Spirit to encourage them and in turn those who are Spirit filled become an encouragement to others. Those who are 10X understand that God has given them the **ministry** of encouragement. Our words have the power of life and death. Those who are 10X know what it is to be discouraged and appreciate those who have encouraged them. That is why they are intentional to speak life into other people. The ministry of encouragement comes **naturally** to those who are 10X. **1 Thessalonians 5:14**

One of the ways that we receive courage is to **meditate** on God's word. **Joshua 1:8-9** Someone said that just as we need to chew on food to release the nutrition in it, we need to meditate on God's word to get the most out of it. Think of meditation as spiritual mastication. The more you mull it over in your spirit the more courage it releases. Remember David thought things over and what was inside eventually **moved** out of his lips. He declared the word of God to Goliath. True courage isn't about us finding our own voice, it is about discovering our confidence in God's Word and declaring it to those who need to listen.

Courage happens when the word of God is no longer just information to us but **revelation**. What brings us success and victory is God's word moving from our mind into action. We dare to take Him at His Word.

Peter stepped out of the boat and walked on water because Jesus told him to come. As long as he looked at **Jesus**, Peter had the courage to keep walking. It was when he focused on the storm that he was no longer walking in faith but walking in fear. When he did, he began to sink but notice, Jesus was right there to rescue him. Be strong and courageous for God is with you.