

Constant Courage, Part 3

1 Samuel 17 and 1 Samuel 7

Courage is the genuine boldness to do the right thing despite danger and threat—and despite sweating palms and a hammering heart.

What I foundationally believe about God leads me to either courage or to fear:

Jan 2—Core Truth: We can have constant courage because of...our total confidence in the goodness of God.

Jan 9—Core Truth: We can have constant courage because of...our absolute certainty of the presence of the living God.

Today—Core Truth: We can have constant courage because of...our experience of God's past faithfulness.

Really and truly God has come through for us in the past—He will come through again:

Exhibit A: David against Goliath. 1 Samuel 17:33-36.

- This thing (Goliath the Philistine) will defeat you! v 33
- God delivered me in the past. v 34-36a
- He delivered me before so I am confident that He will deliver me again. v 36b:
- He will help me now because He is still *present*, still *powerful* and still *for* me.

Exhibit B: Israelites against the Philistines. 1 Samuel 7:1-14

- This thing (the Philistine army) will defeat us! v 7
- God helped us defeat the Philistines. v 12
- God will help us again and the Ebenezer Stone reminds us. v 36b:
 - “Ebenezer” is the “stone of help, thus far the Lord has helped us.”
- He will help us now because He is still *present*, still *powerful* and still *for* us.

Exhibit C: The identical pattern in our own lives.

- This thing (_____) will defeat me.
- God has delivered me in the past.
- I trust Him to come through for me again.
- He will help me now because He is still *present*, still *powerful* and still *for* me.

Please see this: Jumping off the ledge is easier the second time!

WORKSHEET: “A Spiritual Exercise in Remembering.”

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

Core Truth: We can have constant courage because of...our experience of God's past faithfulness.

Each day please read: 1 Samuel 17:33-36 and 1 Samuel 7:1-14

- **Today.** In these two confrontations with the Philistines what are the two sources of fear or two assurances of defeat? Do you have these two sources also?
- **Monday.** Please complete and reflect on “A Spiritual Exercise in Remembering.”
- **Tuesday.** In your heart of hearts do you believe that God is incurably good?
- **Wednesday.** In your heart of hearts do you believe that God is always present?
- **Thursday.** In your heart of hearts do you believe that God is incessantly for you?
- **Friday.** Please read Romans 8:28-39. What are three ways that this passage reinforces the truth that we can have constant courage because of...our experience of God's past faithfulness?
- **Saturday.** In 1 Samuel 7:1-14 the prophet Samuel set up a monument to remind the people of God's past help for them. The stone was named Ebenezer which literally means “the stone of help.” When Samuel erected the stone he said, “thus far the LORD has helped us.” Please create an “Ebenezer Stone” of some kind that you will see daily and be reminded of the past help of God in your life.

“He who has God and many other things has no more than he who has God alone.”

C. S. Lewis

Note for Connection Groups: The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: www.cypressbible.org (Quick Menu / Connect / Sermon Based Small Group Material).

A Spiritual Exercise in Remembering

Remember something you needed:

Remember how God came through:

Spiritually:

Emotionally:

Physically:

Relationally:

Academically:

Vocationally:

Please remember:

- A. You needed something.
- B. God delivered what you needed.
- C. God is still powerful and He is still “for” you.
- D. You can trust Him for the things you need now.

Please see the back of this sheet for a reminder of what God has and has not promised.

What will God deliver for us?

A Core Truth About Courage: We can have constant courage because...our God is good and for us and present and capable and has acted to help us in the past.

What I foundationally believe about God leads me to either courage or to fear:

BUT THERE IS A PROBLEM: At times we ask God to provide for us in ways that He has not promised to help. We must know what He has promised and what He has not. It is possible to courageously trust God for things He has no intention of providing.

What God has NOT promised/guaranteed to us:

- Excellent health or any level of health.
- Wealth.
- Fame.
- Ease and leisure.
- Long life.
- Great relationships.
- Full recovery from injury or illness.
- The approval of others.
- The American Dream.
- Don't take my word for these—look to see if you can find these promised.

What God has promised/guaranteed to us:

- Forgiveness and eternal life when we trust in Christ. John 3:16, 17
- Everything we need for life and godliness. 2 Peter 1:3
- A way of escape in temptation. 1 Corinthians 10:13
- Food and covering. 1 Timothy 6:8
- Strength for what we should do. Philippians 4:13
- Freely give us all things that we need. Romans 8:31, 32
- Resources to gain maturity. Romans 8:29
- To give us what is good. Matthew 7:11
- Something meaningful to do with our lives. 28:16-20
- Ability to be content in every situation. Philippians 3:11-13
- To bring good out of all situations for those who love Him. Romans 8:28
- To draw near to us when we draw near to Him. James 4:7
- Grace for facing hard things. 2 Corinthians 12:9
- Ability to depend on the Spirit and gain the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22, 23
- His continual presence. Matthew 28:20 and Hebrews 13:5
- The opportunity to pursue the Kingdom Dream. Matthew 6:33

“When you have nothing left but God, then you become aware that God is enough.”

Maude Royden