

Constant Courage - Part 4

Courage is the genuine boldness to do the right thing despite danger and threat—even while your palms are sweating and your heart is hammering.

What I foundationally believe about God leads me either to courage or to fear. We can have constant courage because of:

...our total confidence in the goodness of God. Jan 2.

...our absolute certainty of the presence of the living God. Jan 9.

...our experience of God's past faithfulness. Jan 16.

...our absolute certainty of the power/ability of God. Jan 23.

How many of you think I can lift this: book? mixer? bike? chair? _____?

The Ongoing Question: Why do “bad” things happen to “good” people? More specifically, why do bad things happen to me?!?!?

Here is why we do not panic or fear even in painful and threatening times. We have constant courage because:

#1 God has the power to do whatever He wants to do—He is not weak, finite, unaware, or overloaded.

#2 God is incurably for us—He cannot help but love us intensely.

#3 God is using our experiences in this world—including and especially the fearful ones—to make us look like Jesus and prepare us for the next world.

“This is not the best world but it is the best way to the best world.” Dr. Norman Geisler.

“Walking Papers”

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

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Core Truth: We can have constant courage because of...our absolute certainty of the power/ability of God.

- **Today.** Where do you stand—intellectually and emotionally and volitionally—on God’s statement in Jeremiah 32:27, “Behold I am the Lord the God of all flesh, is anything too difficult for Me?” Give some reflection to this verse and the implications for your life please.
- **Monday.** Have you experienced God being “for” you during the course of your life? Please reflect on Romans 8:31, 32 and Zephaniah 3:17 and John 3:17.
- **Tuesday.** Do you see God at work in your life through the hard and fearful things? Please reflect on Romans 8:28 and James 1:2-4.
 - 0. What do you think of Dr. Geisler’s statement? *“This is not the best world but it is the best way to the best world.”*
- **Wednesday.** Please give some reflection and prayer to the idea that “If I am living in fear I foundationally believe wrong things about the nature of God.”
- **Thursday.** Please read 1 Samuel 17 and write as many answers as you can to complete this statement: “David believes that God is...”
- **Friday.** Please reflect on the question of how you can build up the courage inside a friend or a family member who may be struggling right now. Do you know someone in need of genuine boldness right now? Will you take initiative to give that person some help?
- **Saturday.** Where is your main need for courage right now? What will you do to cultivate a genuine boldness to do the right thing even in the face of the threat and possible losses that this situation brings?

Spiritual Exercise Worksheet

Courage is the genuine boldness to do the right thing despite danger and threat—even while your palms are sweating and your heart is hammering.

*“Do not fear, for I am with you;
Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you, surely I will help you,
Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”
Isaiah 41:10*

*“Then Samuel took a stone and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and named it Ebenezer (literally: “the stone of help”), saying, “Thus far the LORD has helped us.”
1 Samuel 7:12*

Review: Courage is not a factor of good circumstances or personal strength or will power or my accumulated resources. *Rather courage is a factor of my core beliefs about God—not what I say I believe about Him but what is fixed in my heart as true about Him.*

What I foundationally believe about God leads me either to 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.

Jan 16—Core Truth: We can have constant courage because of...our experience of God’s past faithfulness.

Jan 23—Core Truth: We can have constant courage because of...our absolute certainty of the power/ability of God.

Question: What is threatening and frightening you right now—the area where you are feeling fearful and overwhelmed and maybe even in danger of panic?

Question: What is God attempting in your life right now?

Question: How will you act with genuine boldness to do the right thing despite danger and threat—even while your palms are sweating and your heart is hammering?

My Decision: Given Who God is and what He is up to I will, God helping me, act with courage—genuine boldness—regarding _____.

Outcomes of Constant Courage:

- ...we have the genuine boldness to do the right things in threatening situations.
- ...we imitate Jesus.
- ...we enjoy spiritual ability.
- ...we enjoy emotional stability.
- ...we take the risks we need to take without reckless living.
- ...we accomplish great good for God and others.
- ...we experience deep joy.
- ...we motivate others to courageous living.
- ...we enhance the reputation of God. 1 Samuel 17:46, 47