

King David, a Profile in Courage

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Introduction: Where does a heart of courage come from?

A. Courage is admired in this world!

1. **cour·age** *n.* The state or quality of mind or spirit that enables one to face danger, fear, or vicissitudes with self-possession, confidence, and resolution; bravery.
2. “If there is one thing upon earth that mankind loves and admires better than another, it is a brave man--a man who dares look the devil in the face and tell him he is the devil.” --- James Garfield

B. David had a courage the world could not understand.

1. His faith was in the living God.
2. Few men have lived in more fearful circumstances than David.
3. Listen to David’s own words! (**Psa 16:7-8**)

I. David’s courage began at a young age

A. When you see David’s faith develop you also see courage!

1. We have already noted that David came from a home where faith was instilled. Jesus was described as being from “the root of Jesse.” (**Isa 11:10; Rom 15:12**)
2. How did David learn from His father? (**Eph 6:4**)
 - a. ⁴And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord. ASV
 - b. He provided a home where respect was learned.
 - c. This took wisdom and control on Jesse’s part. Outbursts of wrath do not produce the righteousness of God. (**Jam 1:19-20**)

B. David learned to control his fears.

1. One of the great lessons a parent can teach their children is what to fear!
2. This is how we come to find real knowledge. (**Prov 1:7**)
3. True wisdom will teach us who and what to fear! (**Mt 10:24-31**)
 - a. Fear comes when there is danger and potential loss.
 - b. Fear comes when there is uncertainty over what we think may happen.
 - c. What do we fear? We teach our children what to fear and how to be courageous! We cannot teach very well when our example says something else! (Consider the conflicts with attending services)
4. Our eternity will be determined by our choice between fear and faith. (**Rev 21:8 - ASV**)

Revelation 21:8 (ASV) ⁸But for the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part *shall be* in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death.

C. Courage comes in steps.

1. Character is built one brick at a time! David’s confrontations as a shepard was a result of earlier preparation. (**1 Sam 17:34-37**)

- a. How old was David when he did these things?
- b. Faith grows by practice. This is why tests are so important.
- c. How many parents flee at the first opportunity for their child to suffer?
2. The battle with Goliath was just another step!
 - a. The sad truth was that there were not any other men of faith in the army of God at that place! **(1 Sam 17:20-25)**
 - b. Fear is very powerful!
 - c. David wanted to know why no one else would stand! **(1 Sam 17:31-32)**
 - d. He was concerned about fear spreading among others! There is such a thing as a “leadership of fear.” **(Num 13:30-14:9)**
3. Because of David’s stand fear was shared by the Philistines! **(1 Sam 17:48-54)**

II. How to have courage like David

- A. David tells us in his writings the source of his courage over and over!
 1. David taught those who were around him to have this kind of courage!
Consider where his “mighty men” developed their qualities! **(2 Sam 23:8-12)**
 2. David’s courage was rooted in his relationship with God. **(Psa 18:1-3, 31-36)**
“Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear.”
- B. Courage comes from confidence in ones fellowship with God.
 1. Why was Joshua not to be afraid? **(Deut 31:23; Josh 1:6-9)**
 2. Over and over David knew that if God was with him then all would be fine.
 3. From a human standpoint David was often in impossible situations.
- C. The confidence of fellowship is rooted in worship!
 1. Even in human relationships, distance and lack of interaction breeds fear and distrust.
 2. Why did David often worship God? **(Ps 27:4, 8)**
“The coward seeks release from pressure. The courageous pray for strength.”
 3. Over and over David spends time in expressing his praise to a living God who hears prayers and delivers His people.
 4. This kind of worship allowed David to know God and his presence. **(Psa 139:1-6)**
 5. Worship is work! God wanted David to “seek His face.” **(Psa 27:7-8)**
 6. God has ways of reassuring you. **(Acts 18:9-11)**
- D. This confidence did not produce stubbornness! David was teachable!
 1. Some mistake pride for confidence.
 2. David often made mistakes and knew that he had to daily ask God to teach him. **(Psa 25:4-5)**
 3. You cannot have a relationship with God and live in pride and arrogance.
“Don’t be afraid to ask dumb questions; they’re easier to handle than dumb mistakes.”
- E. David knew that God would never let him down.
 1. Men often cause us to “be ashamed” but not our God. **(Psa 25:1-3)**
 2. Do you know such a God? Then you are a man of courage!

III. The fight for courage among Christians

A. We are to have the faith and courage of David! (**Zech 12:7-9**)

1. We are told not to fear our enemies! (**1 Pt 3:12-14**)
2. We do not have to “figure everything out!” we simply need to know God’s will and that God is with us.

“Nothing will ever be accomplished if every objection must be overcome.” - Samuel Johnson

B. We must face the fears in raising our children. (**Eph 6:4**)

1. We can be dominated by fear and in that receive they very thing we feared! (Ex. I am afraid my child will turn from the Lord.)
2. Jesus was crucified out of the fear of the leaders. They got what they feared! (**Jn 11:48-50**)
 - a. Fearful people will often cause you the most harm!
 - b. Why will people not be open and honest?

“The people to worry about are not those who openly disagree with you, but those who disagree with you who are too cowardly to let you know.”

3. Why did David see his fears come true with Absalom? (**2 Sam 18:33; 2 Sam 12:9-12**)
 - a. There was a moment in David’s life where he did not fear God.
 - b. Here is where we need to put our efforts! (**Psa 25:12-13**)
4. How should we handle conflicts between church services and sports?

C. We must face the fears of “contending for the faith.” (**Jude 3**)

“When moral courage feels that it is in the right, there is no personal daring of which it is incapable.”

1. Many punish others by withholding their association. There are families that get others to “line-up” with this kind of threat.
2. When elders are fearful of strong lessons they will hurt the people they are trying to protect.

“No passion so effectually robs the mind of all its powers of acting and reasoning as fear.” - *Edmund Burke*

3. Some churches in fear refuse to deal with public displays of immodesty.

D. We must face the fears of earning a living. (**1 Tim 6:6-10**)

1. There is an optimism that faith brings. (**Rom 8:28**)
2. “What if I do not have enough money for my children!” What does faith say? (**Heb 13:5-6**)

E. We must face the fears of evangelism. (**Mt 28:18-20**)

“Give me a hundred men who fear nothing but sin, and desire nothing but God, and I will shake the world. I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; and such alone will overthrow the kingdom of Satan and build up the kingdom of God on earth.”

1. “Will my children be hurt if they take a stand alone?” What does faith say?
2. God’s best work comes in our weaknesses if we will let Him. (**2 Cor 12:7-10**)

Conclusion: Let us learn to look at God and not just at our fears.

1. When we know the presence of God we can face the unknowns of our lives. (**Gen 26:24; Num 14:9**)

“The fear of God makes a hero; the fear of man makes a coward.”

2. What did Jesus often tell His disciples and others? (**Mk 5:36; Jn 14:27**)

3. Jesus will teach us if we would learn! (Ex. Wasp nests)

Last, but by no means least, courage--moral courage, the courage of one's convictions, the courage to see things through. The world is in a constant conspiracy against the brave. It's the age-old struggle--the roar of the crowd on one side and the voice of your conscience on the other. -- General Douglas MacArthur

Only by desertion can we be defeated. With Christ and for Christ victory is certain. We can lose the victory by flight but not by death. Happy are you if you die in battle, for after death you will be crowned. But woe to you if by forsaking the battle you forfeit at once both the victory and the crown.

Any questions or responses are welcome

**Larry W. Rouse
3124 Ridgefield Road
Charlottesville, VA 22911
(434) 973-5774
Cell: (434) 227-6919**

www.cvillechurch.com

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