

EVERYDAY COURAGE

Part 15 of Foundations 260 - OT. Joshua 1:1-11.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. May 31, 2026.

More teaching resources are available here: www.famousgod.com/groups

VICTOR

When I was a kid, I read the Victor comic every week.

- It was full of stories of heroes and adventure.
- The tales all had a common theme: courage.

The impression was that courage was only for heroic deeds.

- But courage is needed by every faithful follower of Jesus, all the time.

JOSHUA 1:1-11

Israel was massed on the border of the Promised Land.

- God spoke to Joshua and oriented him to the road ahead.

Read Joshua 1:1-11.

THE TRUTH ABOUT COURAGE

Courage is not just for heroes.

- We need courage in our everyday, ordinary lives.
- Courage is for moms and dads, students, workers, retirees, coaches, teachers, and preachers.
- Every faithful follower of Jesus needs courage every day.

WHAT IS COURAGE?

Courage is:

- Courage is doing the right thing, at the right time, in the right way, according to God's will and word, in any situation, at any cost.
- Courage isn't about warfare heroics; it's about spiritual discipline.

Why? Because it takes courage to obey God in everyday things.

Joshua 1:7-8 (CSB) Above all, be strong and very courageous to observe carefully the whole instruction my servant Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right or the left, so that you will have success wherever you go. 8 This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do.

“Observe carefully” = two synonyms for “obey.”

- It's for emphasis: REALLY, TOTALLY obey.
- Not only in the big stuff, not only when he was fighting, but in everyday living, whatever he did, wherever he went.
- That kind of everyday obedience takes courage, so God instructed Joshua: *“Be strong and very courageous to observe the whole instruction carefully...”*

HOW DO WE FIND COURAGE?

Biblical courage is a choice we make based on two realities:

1. We find courage by trusting the promises of God

Joshua 1:3 (CSB) I have given you every place where the sole of your foot treads, just as I promised Moses.

Joshua 1:6 (CSB) Be strong and courageous, for you will distribute the land I swore to their ancestors to give them as an inheritance.

- The Christian life is a promise-driven life. Missionary pioneer Hudson Taylor reportedly said, “*God is not looking for men of great faith; He is looking for common men to trust His great faithfulness.*”
- Find a promise to stand on every day.

2. We find courage by expecting the presence of God

Joshua 1:5 (CSB) No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. I will be with you, just as I was with Moses. I will not leave you or abandon you.

Joshua 1:9 (CSB) Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

- The God of the universe - all power and glory, the holy, holy, holy One - is with us, in us, and through us. Someone said, “*God’s presence doesn’t come and go. It comes and stays.*”
- When we know we live in God’s powerful, loving presence, we’ll find the courage to do God’s will.

COURAGE IN THE EVERYDAY, ORDINARY

Faithful followers of Jesus live by courage every day.

- To turn from yourself to trust in Jesus as your God and Savior
- To be faithful in marriage for 50 years
- To change our baby’s diapers when we’re exhausted
- To do our homework when we’d rather be scrolling TikTok
- To speak the truth when a lie would make life easier
- To share Jesus with a rude skeptic
- To love and forgive people who hurt us

Let’s be courageous. Our God is with us. And his promises never fail.

PERSPECTIVES ON COURAGE

This week's small group questions are at: www.famousgod.com/groups

Courage is a major theme in Scripture, but it is more than a personality trait or “feeling brave.” It is the God-given strength to trust and obey Him when life feels uncertain, costly, or frightening.

When God calls Joshua to lead Israel into the Promised Land, He repeats the command, “Be strong and courageous,” and ties it to two things: obeying His Word and trusting His presence and promises. Joshua is told to meditate on God's instruction day and night and not to be afraid, “for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Courage grows as God's promises move from the page into our hearts and decisions.

King David shows another angle in Psalm 27. Surrounded by threats, he ends by preaching to his own soul: “Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart be courageous; wait for the Lord.” Biblical courage often looks like steady, hopeful waiting—continuing to pray, worship, and walk with God when there is no quick solution.

In the New Testament, courage is also tied to spiritual battle. Paul urges believers to “be strengthened by the Lord” and to put on the armor of God so they can stand firm against the schemes of the devil. Our courage is not self-generated; it flows from the gospel, the Spirit, and the truth we wear like armor.

And when the disciples are terrified in the storm, Jesus says, “Take courage; it is I. Don't be afraid” (Matthew 14:27). That is the heart of Christian courage: not “I am strong,” but “He is with me, right here, right now.”

Be strong and courageous. That's how faithful followers of Jesus live every day.

Written with AI assistance.