

DEVOTIONAL

Hollywood Prayer Network

COURAGE

We all want to be brave and we all have heroes. It's because God has given each of us the Divine desire to be courageous. But we can only get courage through Him. This week we're looking at how to replace our fears with His courage. And with God ALL things are possible!

DAY 1

DO NOT BE AFRAID, THE LORD IS WITH YOU

"COURAGE IS GOING FROM FAILURE TO
FAILURE WITHOUT LOSING ENTHUSIASM."
- WINSTON CHURCHILL

Joshua 1:9

New King James Version

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and
of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be
dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you
wherever you go."

DAY 1

PRAY: Lord, thank You that I can turn to You for strength and courage. I don't want to be afraid about anything, but I know that You are the only one who can take fear away from my mind and heart. Would You fill me with courage so that I can start each day with confidence and have strength through You, with no hesitation for anything that You have for me today. Thank you for being with me wherever I go. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen

REFLECT: It's amazing how often God gives us words of encouragement in the Bible. He knows that all human beings are weak and afraid without Him. We need to know that He's here for us, that He will give us strength and courage that we don't have on our own. He is gentle but strong in His reminders, and even through His commandments, that we need Him desperately and that's just where He wants us - to depend on Him each day for courage and strength. He is an awesome God to promise us that He will be with us, wherever we go!

ACT: Choose one current situation where you are either afraid or discouraged. Now put Jesus in that situation, walking with you, holding you up, giving you wisdom and guidance... Isn't that empowering to know that you're not walking through this alone?! He is not only here with us to give us strength and courage, but He commands us to think this way!

DAY 2

BE STRONG, TAKE COURAGE, WAIT FOR THE LORD

"I LEARNED THAT COURAGE WAS NOT THE
ABSENCE OF FEAR, BUT THE TRIUMPH OVER IT.
THE BRAVE MAN IS NOT HE WHO DOES NOT
FEEL AFRAID, BUT HE WHO CONQUERS THAT
FEAR."

-NELSON MANDELA

Psalms 31:24

New King James Version

Be of good courage,
And He shall strengthen your heart,
All you who hope in the Lord.

DAY 2

PRAY: Dear Jesus, my courage and my strength, I turn to You each morning to fill me up with Your strength. Please take away my fear, and show me how to push through the situations where I feel weak and unable to proceed. Let me wait on You to deliver me, so that I will handle each day with confidence, wisdom, and with a heart full of courage.

REFLECT: God tells us to be strong, knowing that we can't do anything on our own. Could this be one of God's ways to make us turn to Him, depend on Him, lean on Him, and wait on Him? He wants, more than anything, for us to put our lives completely in His hands. Then, and only then, can He fill us with the courage and strength we need to handle each day. But it only happens when we wait on Him and His timing. Isn't it ironic that we only get stronger and braver when we wait on God.

ACT: Are you afraid? Wait on God. Seek His face, tell Him what you need or what you're afraid of, and then wait. Do you need courage? Wait on God. Seek His face, tell him why you need Him and then wait. Wait on the Lord, wait to hear His voice, to get guidance from Him. Wait for Him to take away your fear and to fill you with strength. Today is a day to patiently wait on the Lord. Or this may be the week or the month to wait. Embrace waiting on the Lord and He will give you the courage you need to carry on!

DAY 3

STAND FIRM, DO ALL IN LOVE, YOU CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST

"COURAGE IS BEING SCARED TO DEATH...
AND SADDLING UP ANYWAY."
-JOHN WAYNE

New King James Version

1 Corinthians 16:13 - 16:14

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done with love.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

DAY 3

PRAY: God, my heavenly Father, You tell me to be on my guard and yet be strong and courageous. I need You to show me how to stand firm in my faith and especially how to do everything in love. I truly believe that I can do all things through You, who gives me strength, but I don't know how. Will You help me? Thank you, my God. Thank you!

REFLECT: From what are we on our guard? Against whom do we have to stand firm in the faith? Why do we have to be courageous and strong? And how do we do everything in love? None of us truly know, but that's why we need God the Father, Jesus and Son AND the Holy Spirit. It takes a trinity to give us strength, and to prepare us for the battles of life with courage and love. You just have to believe, in complete humility, that you can only do all things through Him who gives you strength. And that's the most courageous thing you will ever do!

ACT: Make a short list of three things you need God for today. The list should look like this:

- I need to be on my guard from this
- I need to stand firm in the faith in this situation
- I need to be courageous and strong in this

Once you define the three areas of need, tell the Lord that you commit to do everything in love. And tell Him you truly believe that you can do all this through Him who gives you strength. Then start your day and wait on Him to supply all that you need!

DAY 4

YOU ARE CHOSEN, DO NOT FEAR, THE LORD WILL UPHOLD YOU

"FAILURE IS UNIMPORTANT. IT TAKES
COURAGE TO MAKE A FOOL OF YOURSELF."
-CHARLIE CHAPLIN

Isaiah 41:9 - 41:10

New King James Version

9 You whom I have taken from the ends of the
earth,

And called from its farthest regions,
And said to you, You are My servant,
I have chosen you and have not cast you
away:

10 Fear not, for I am with you;
Be not dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you,
I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

DAY 4

PRAY: Dear Lord, You have brought me right where I am in order to serve You here, amongst this particular people group on the earth because You have chosen me to be your courageous servant. So, Lord, don't let me judge your servants whom You have brought to serve You in Hollywood, in Las Vegas, or in any other cities I don't like. You need courageous servants to be salt and light in all the farthest corners of the earth and I pray for those in tough places, to get strength from You so that they can do Your work in the place they've been called to. You have sent Your people to the ends of the earth so help me to support all of them in prayer. Amen

REFLECT: Have you ever thought that God loves every single person on the earth and in His perfect plan, has sent His people to the ends of the earth in order to reach everyone of His creations. That understanding should stop us from ever judging or not liking any people group. We all need the Lord and He loves each one of us, no matter who we are, where we are, or what we do. Could you courageously pray for the lost people in Hollywood who need to hear the saving grace of Jesus and pray for courage for His servants, whom God has sent there?

DAY 4

ACT: Right now, pray for the Christians in Hollywood who have been sent by God to minister to, pray for, and love the media professionals who are creating the world's entertainment. Pray for these servants to have courage, wisdom, love, and grace towards that people group at "the farthest corner" of our country. Ask the Lord to give them courage as they share the gospel of hope to their co-workers, friends and associates. Hollywood's a hard place to be and as they faithfully serve God there, they need your prayers of love and support. God has chosen them and not rejected them, so we can't reject them either!

DAY 5

GOD IS FOR
YOU, YOU ARE
MORE THAN A
CONQUEROR
THROUGH
HIM!

"IT IS CURIOUS - CURIOUS THAT PHYSICAL
COURAGE SHOULD BE SO COMMON IN THE
WORLD, AND MORAL COURAGE SO RARE."

-MARK TWAIN

DAY 5

Romans 8:31 - 8:39

New King James Version

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written:

"For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

DAY 5

PRAY: Jesus, this verse fills me up with courage. I don't have to hesitate or be afraid of anything after reading these truths. Thank You that because You are with me, no one is strong enough to be against me. You did the ultimate act of courage by sacrificing Your own Son, just because You loved me so much. You are fair, You are just, You don't condemn, You protect me, You conquer all of my enemies and NOTHING can separate me from Your love. I am overwhelmed by these loving, almost outrageous promises and truths and for that I am full of courage to face anything today. Thank You more than I can ever express for all that You've done for me, given to me and are to me. I pray this in Your mighty name. Amen

REFLECT: Can we ever completely fathom these truths in Romans 8? By reading it over and over, can we embrace the fact that NOTHING can get in the way of God's love for us? How is it possible that even in death and life, sickness, or danger, that absolutely nothing can stop God from loving you, protecting you, and caring for you. That anywhere you are, whatever you're doing, whomever you're with, God is there, He is protecting you, giving you strength and filling you with courage. Think about His promise that NOTHING will be able to separate you from His love, the love that comes through Christ Jesus your Lord. Getting that truth deep inside your soul will cause you to be full of the courage needed to face our world today!

DAY 5

ACT: Write these verses, Romans 8:31-39, down on an index card, or highlight in your smart phone Notes and start to memorize it. These are powerful verses to memorize. They put into perspective not only who God is, but what He does for us. Just take it one verse at a time, and don't be intimidated by the length. It's powerful and life-changing. If you can get this verse planted in your mind and your heart, you will be a person of great courage.

DAY 6

WHEN YOU ARE AFRAID, TRUST IN THE LORD

"MISTAKES ARE ALWAYS FORGIVABLE, IF ONE
HAS THE COURAGE TO ADMIT THEM."

-BRUCE LEE

New King James Version

Psalms 56:3 - 56:4

3 Whenever I am afraid,
I will trust in You.

4 In God (I will praise His word),
In God I have put my trust;
I will not fear.

What can flesh do to me?

Proverbs 28:1

The wicked flee when no one pursues,
But the righteous are bold as a lion.

DAY 6

PRAY: Lord, would You help me to put all of my trust in You when I'm afraid. I know that when I fully put my trust in You I am never afraid, but it's hard always to do that. Thank you that when I have courage, it's because it comes from You. And then I don't have to worry about any mere mortal! Thank you, Lord that I don't ever need to flee any situation, but I can be bold as a lion and stand firm in Your promises. Oh Lord, please let me always live by that truth and get my courage from You. In Jesus' name, AMEN and AMEN

REFLECT: It's such a mind game sometimes to get our brains to believe what we know to be true, but what is hard to emotionally embrace. We know that when we trust in God we won't be afraid. We know that God promises to fill us with courage that will give us the strength to face any mere mortal or any situation. But, to actually live that out is a challenge. What would it take to get both your heart and your brain to live every day as bold as a lion; full of courage and confidence in Him?

ACT: Define one situation where you feel fear. Now, ask the Holy Spirit to take away any fear, doubt, or concern and to fill you, instead, with a boldness to face whatever it is, head on, with courage! Ask the Lord to teach you what it takes to put your trust in Him, and NOT in yourself or your circumstances. Then you won't be afraid! That exercise is worth repeating!

DAY 7

TAKE COURAGE! TESTIFY ABOUT JESUS AND HIS AMAZING GIFT OF SALVATION AND LOVE

"MISTAKES ARE ALWAYS FORGIVABLE, IF ONE
HAS THE COURAGE TO ADMIT THEM."

-BRUCE LEE

Acts 23:11

New King James Version

But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome."

DAY 7

PRAY: God, my faithful Father, give me courage to share my faith! Help me to be confident in my relationship with You and to testify to my friends, my family members, and co-workers about my love for You. And let me be gentle, truthful, full of grace and sensitivity, so that I can meet people where they are and say or do what is best to move them a step closer to You. Lord, it is not only a commandment, but a privilege to be salt and light in this world, so why am I so afraid? I need you to give me courage so that I can offer others what someone once gave to me - the gift of having You as my Savior. Amen.

REFLECT: Why are we all so afraid to share our faith to others? Why don't we have the courage to tell others about the best thing that's ever happened to us? It is spiritual battle. The enemy doesn't want Christians to be talking about the Good News of Jesus or everyone would start believing. But we must do what God wants. And if He tells us to "Take courage!" then we need to take that seriously. What's stopping you from sharing your faith to the people around you?

DAY 7

ACT: Choose one person in your life whom you are afraid to talk to about Jesus. Start praying for that person and asking the Lord to both prepare his/her heart to accept the truth about Him, and to give you the courage to talk confidently about the amazing love, hope, joy, and salvation of the Lord. Soon, an opportunity will arise or the Holy Spirit will start nudging you, so don't let fear stop you from the chance to make an eternal difference in that person's life. And remember, courage comes when you step out and do the right thing, especially when you're afraid!