

It Takes Courage To Make A Difference

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Psalm 31:24 (King James) Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.

Courage – the capacity to meet danger without giving way to fear.

Numbers 13:30 – 33 (King James) And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. [31] But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. [32] And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. [33] And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

Four areas we can stand up for what is right:

I. It Takes Courage To Live By Faith.

Habakkuk 2:4 (New Living Translation) "Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked; but the righteous will live by their faith.

Living by faith is never losing hope in God's ability to make you what God wants you to be in Christ.

Philip. 1:6 (The Message) There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears.

Five important things to know about faith:

1. Faith is now.

Hebrews 11:1 (King James) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2. Every believer has faith.

Ephes. 2:8 (King James) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

3. Faith is the only fight believers are told to fight.

I Timothy. 6:12 (King James) Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

4. You can't be pleasing to God without operating in faith.

Hebrews 11:6 (King James) But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

5. Faith is one of the most powerful weapons you can use against Satan.

II Corinthians. 10:4-5 (Living Bible) I use God's mighty weapons, not those made by men, to knock down the devil's strongholds. [5] These weapons can break down every proud argument against God and every wall that can be built to keep men from finding him. With these weapons I can capture rebels and bring them back to God and change them into men whose hearts' desire is obedience to Christ.

II. It Takes Courage To Stand Up For What's Right

I Cor. 16:13 (God's Word Translation) Be alert. Be firm in the Christian faith. Be courageous and strong.

Ezekiel 3:18 (Living Bible) If you refuse to warn the wicked when I want you to tell them, "You are under the penalty of death; therefore repent and save your life," they will die in their sins, but I will punish you. I will demand your blood for theirs.

III It Takes Courage To Own Up To Our Sins

I John 1:9 (King James) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

IV. It Takes Courage To Allow God's Word To Transform Your Life.

Romans 12:2 (The Message) Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

God's word has the power to get the job done.

Romans 1:16 (New Century Version) I am proud of the Good News, because it is the power God uses to save everyone who believes—to save the Jews first, and also to save those who are not Jews.

"It's never too late to be who you might have been." George Elliot