

# Courage

Courage is not the absence of fear; it is the mastery of it.

Courage is doing what you are afraid to do.

*Joshua 1:7a (nlt) Be strong and very courageous.*

*2 Timothy 2:7 (nlt) God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.*

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be a courageous hero may never happen to you or me. But be encouraged because;

- **It takes courage to be ordinary.**

We need courage to face life's ordinary, everyday challenges.

*Acts 4:13 (niv) When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.*

Every single day we make choices between the **right thing** and the **most convenient thing**.

To choose the way of integrity and staying true to our convictions takes courage.

Compromising our integrity and convictions takes no courage.

We can choose to trust in God to be there when we need Him most, or we can second guess Him, doubting He will come through for us when we need Him to.

- It takes courage **to face our fears.**

*Deuteronomy 31:6 (niv) Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.*

Every fear mastered causes us to grow in courage.

- It takes courage **to take responsibility.**

It takes a great deal of courage to be a Christ follower and to own up to our sins before God who is holy.

It takes courage to own up to the truth about our behaviour.

*1 John 1:9 (niv) If we **confess** our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

Confessing our wrongdoing can be humiliating. It makes us feel uncomfortable and exposed, but it's the right thing for us to do.

If it takes courage to '*become*' a Christian, it takes even more courage to '*remain*' a Christian!

- It takes courage **to fulfil God's will for our lives.**

Jesus is our greatest example. He was a man of courage.

Jesus exhibited enormous courage to carry out His Father's will.

His obedience, even unto death shows the degree of His sacrificial courage.

Yet no one can fully comprehend or fully understand the pain and suffering Jesus endured.

*Isaiah 53:5 (niv) Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted.*

The blows inflicted upon Him merged with each other to form one complete wound and bruise from head to toe!

Jesus had seemingly lost all resemblance to a man.

*Isaiah 52:14 (tlb) They shall see My Servant beaten and bloodied, so disfigured one would scarcely know it was a person standing there.*

Jesus set His face courageously and steadfastly toward that ugly place just outside of Jerusalem, known as "**Skull Hill**" (Golgotha).

*John 3:16 (niv) For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

It's within these sufferings of Jesus, lies the heart of the full and great salvation God offers to us.

Jesus was truly '**The Man of Courage!**'