

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Courage

"Courage is the ladder on which all the other virtues mount." – Clare Booth Luce

"Courage is fear holding on a minute longer." – Gen. George S. Patton

"Courage consists not in blindly overlooking danger, but in seeing it and conquering it." – Jean Paul Richter

"Keep your fears to yourself, but share your courage with others." – Robert Louis Stevenson

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen." – Winston Churchill

Webster defines *courage* as, "the ability to do something that you know is difficult or dangerous." There is also the definition, "mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty."

Perhaps the greatest challenge for a child of God today is to share the Gospel with those who are intimidating. We may feel our heart "pounding" in our chest. We might even perspire. Those who have knocked doors to share the good news have often faced their fears.

One of the inspirational stories of old is that of the spies who spied out the promised land. If you recall, a representative of each tribe was selected to go into Canaan. What is sad is that only two of those who went had any sign of courage in overtaking the land and its inhabitants.

Despite the fact that there were giants in the land, the voice of courage was found among the spies. "Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, 'Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it' (Num. 13:30). "But Joshua...and Caleb...tore their clothes; and they spoke to...the children of Israel, saying...'If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land...' (Num. 14:6-8). It is encouraging to hear people say that something can be done with the Lord's help instead of the usual defeatist attitude.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (Matt. 28:19). "And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). If one brings up the Great Commission today and suggests trying to tell others about Jesus, quite often such thoughts are met with fear and excuses. You would think that monsters are behind every door just waiting to devour whoever might approach them.

The church will never grow so long as fear captures the hearts of the people. It takes the voices of courage and optimism to change what otherwise would be a dismal picture. Instead of saying, "We can't," we should be saying, "We can with the Lord's help!"