

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR WORLD

PART 2: COURAGE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

HOW CAN I LIVE COURAGEOUSLY?

1. By owning up _____

“He who conceals his sins does not prosper...” Pr. 28:13

2. By standing up _____

“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.” 1 Cor. 16:13

“And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle...” 1 Thess. 5:14

“I’ll be able to stand up to mockery because I trust your word... as I look for Your truth and Your wisdom, I’ll tell the world what I find, and speak out boldly in public, unembarrassed.” Ps. 119:45, 46 (The Message)

3. By speaking up _____

“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord.” 2 Tim. 1:7-8

“God doesn’t want us to be shy with His gifts, but bold and loving and sensible. So don’t be embarrassed to speak up for our Master.” 2 Tim. 1:7-8 (The Message)

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...” 1 Peter 3:15

“I am not ashamed of the Gospel of God for it is the power of God to salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” Romans 1:16

HOW TO BUILD YOUR COURAGE

• _____ through baptism

• _____ for boldness

“Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.” Acts 4:29

• _____ God to use me

“I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.” Phil. 1:20

• _____ the end of the story

“Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.” James 5:8

“If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory.” Lk. 9:26

DAILY MEDITATIONS

Brief daily Bible studies based on this week’s message

This week’s memory verse:

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

Monday

Look back over last weekend’s notes. What role does courage play in making a difference?

How have you been impacted by someone else’s courage to make a difference?

Read Joshua 1:9. In what area(s) of your life do you need to know that God is with you?

How can God’s presence give you courage?

Thank God today that He is with you each step of the day. Thank God for the people who He has used to make a difference in your life. Ask God to teach you about a courage that’s based on Him this week.

Tuesday

Read Psalm 51 & Prov. 28:13.. What is the link between confession of sins and courage? How have you seen the truth of this in your life?

Think about your life. In what way is sin impacting your courage to make a difference?

Read 1 Cor. 16:13 & Phil. 1:27-28. What do these verses say about courage?

When is it most difficult for you to summon the courage to stand up for what is right? Write down three things you believe God is calling you to stand up for. How will you do that?

Thank God today that He stands with you when you're standing up for what is right. Ask Him to help you apply these verses and give you the courage to confess your sins and stand up for what is right.

Wednesday

Read Rom. 1:16, 2 Tim. 1:7-8 & 1 Peter 3:13-15. Sometimes it's easier to stand up for what is right (especially if it's popular) than it is to speak up for Christ. How can speaking up for your faith help you make a difference?

How do these verses encourage you? What opportunities do you have right now to speak up for Christ?

Thank God today for the privilege of being His representative on earth. Ask Him to give you the courage to speak and live out your faith in way that makes a difference.

Thursday

Read Acts 4:29, Ephesians 2:8-10 & Phil. 1:19-21. What prevents you from believing that God wants to use you to make a difference?

What is the best possible way you can imagine God using you to make a difference?

How can the expectation that God will and wants to use you give you courage and boldness?

Thank God today that He has a plan to use you. Talk to Him about how you would like to make a difference. Give your dreams to Him and ask Him to work a miracle.

Friday

Read Luke 9:23-26 & 2 Timothy 4:1-7. It is so easy to lose sight of the eternal in the midst of a busy life. How do these verses speak to focusing on the eternal? What is the link between an eternal perspective and courage?

Think about the area in which you really want to make a difference. How can you apply the motivation from these verses to give you courage to move forward?

Thank God today that there is more to life than the here and now. Thank Him for the opportunity to make a difference and pray that you will grow in faith and courage.

Saturday

Today polish up that memory verse. Please pray for services this weekend, that God's presence would be sensed in a powerful way.