

# GOLDEN STATE BIBLE BAPTIST PRISON MINISTRY “ON THE FRONT LINE”

EDITION XI - FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WOODBURY, CT DECEMBER, 2025



(Dr. Peter P. Ventura)

## **HOW TO HAVE COURAGE IN THE LORD**

### **TEXT: Joshua Chapter 1.**

You and I can find many Commands in the Book of Joshua Chapter One. Here are nine of them: “Go over”; “Be strong”; “Be of good courage”; “Observe to do”; “Do not depart”; “Meditate”; “Be not afraid”; “Be not dismayed”; and “Remember”.

Courage is the grace of fearlessness. It is born of truth; it is dominated by righteousness, and its highest form is begotten by the fear of God! Thus, the question begs: “How To Have Courage In The Lord”:

**1) You Must Have Feet Of Courage** – Vss. 2, 11. “go over this Jordan” is the Lord’s distinct and definite command. There were many things in the way of the Nation of Israel – the people called of God – there were many things in the way of their going; the fast flow of the Jordan River; Jericho with its walls; Canaanites in their opposition; but the Lord says “GO”, it is not for you and I to reason – our call is to respond. The one thought that dominated American Soldiers and Allied forces during the Great War – World War Two – was that they were contending for the right against arrogance of might they had winged feet in their cause. And when you know you are right, the difficulties of this life on Earth will not hold us back as Christians. Like Paul the Apostle, we shall press on. Paul wrote in Phil. 3:14 – “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus”. “I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith” (2 Tim. 4:8).

**2) You Must Have The Ground Of Courage** – Vss. 6, 9, 18. The ground of courage is the Lord’s command and His promise. W wise preacher once said this about the Book of Joshua – “It is a book which tells us, straight from the lips of God, all we ought to do, and need to know; a book to be trusted as a Captain’s order, to be heard and obeyed at our peril.”

**3) You Must Have The Action Of Courage** – Vss. 7 – 8. “Observe to do” is the keynote which is sounded through the entire chapter. “The Law” is what the people of God were to “Observe and Do”. The people of God were and are to observe “All of It” and not some of it! The Law was not to depart from their mouth, and it was to be always with them; they were to “Meditate therein day and night” and if they did these things – if they did these things – the Lord promised them good success and prosperity.

**4) You Must Have The Face Of Courage** – Vs. 9. Christian, if you look with confidence into the face of God, you will be able to look into the faces of men. The Lord bids you and I, man or woman, boy or girl, just like the Lord bid Joshua, “be not afraid” nor “dismayed”. One of the greatest things that was said about John Knox was, he never feared the face of man; and when he heard one of Queen Mary’s attendants say of him: “He is not afraid” – this was in reference to the Queen’s anger against Knox – Knox said: “Why should the pleasing face of a gentlewoman affray me, when I have looked into the faces of many angry men, and yet have not been afraid?” Brethren, when our hearts are in the will of God, when you and I are following in the steps of Him who set His face like flint, you and I can confidently and steadfastly go on, with Him – after all we have seen the Cross of Calvary in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. The Scriptures record Jesus approach to Calvary in Lk. 9:51 – “And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to Jerusalem”.

**5) You Must Have The Mind Of Courage** – Vss. 8, 13. Here we find a twofold injunction which relates to the mind: “Meditate” and “Remember”. When your mind meditates upon the Word of God with intense regard, it will cause the fire of devotion to burn with a fervent flame, which will show itself a ready

response to what the Lord Commands – what the Lord requires of every Christian. Jeremiah said “. . . But *his word* was in my heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay” (Jer. 20:9). Christian, when we remember what the Lord has promised, it will cause you and I to enjoy what He has given each of us.

**6) Finally, You Must Have The Strength Of Courage** – The Lord said in verse 5 of our text – “I will be with thee”, and the Lord followed it up by saying: “The LORD thy God is with thee, withersoever thou goeth” (vs. 9). The presence of God Almighty in your life is the secret of everything. It is the giver of rest, as Moses found; it is the soul of prosperity, as Joseph experienced; it is the cause of victory, as King David knew; it is the sustainer in trial, as Paul enjoyed; and it is the companion in solitude and loneliness as John who was confined to the Isle of Patmos discovered.

In conclusion to this sermon, I am reminded of a story I was once told. There was a Preacher walking home on a very dark night. He was walking along a country lane. Someone wanted to scare the Preacher and shouted out of the darkness: “Preacher, the Devil is in the henges!” The Preacher without hesitation responded: “Bless the Lord, I did not think he was as far off as that”, and the Preacher went on his way singing to the Lord!!!

**END**

### **SELF VOICES**

**Voice of the World.** “Save thyself” (Lk.23:39).

**Voice of the Self-Christian.** “Pity thyself” (Mt. 16:22).

**Voice of the Lord.** “Deny thyself” (16:24).

### **WHAT IS SIN?**

**“Sin” Ro. 6.**

1. Sin is **“transgression”** a going beyond the bounds of God’s Law (1 Jn. 3:4).
2. Sin is **“coming short”** of God’s requirement, a missing of the mark of Divine Standard (Ro. 3:23).
3. Sin is **“trespass”**, an offense against God’s will (Eph. 2:1, 5).
4. Sin is **“iniquity”** a falling aside from Divine rectitude (Acts 8:23).
5. Sin is **“rebellion”** against God, an affront to Him (Job 34:37).
6. Sin is a **“betrayal”**, a dealing treacherously with the Lord (Hosea 6:7).
7. Sin is a **“debt”**, a failure in duty (Mt. 6:12).

**END**



**Pastor Rocky Shanks and Dr. Ventura**

### IN DEFENSE OF THE KJB (A.V.)

**QUESTION:** Why won’t Bible believer’s admit that their beloved Textus Receptus is based on late, inferior manuscripts?

**ANSWER:** Because it isn’t.

**EXPLANATION:** The charge that the Textus Receptus is based on late, inferior manuscripts is often leveled against the King James Bible.

Unfortunately for those making the charge they are only wrong **twice**.

Although many of the manuscripts that make up the Textus Receptus are indeed late, some even having been produced after the King James Bible, this not a factor in determining the original text of the New Testament. Very simply, if the text has already been established by ancient witnesses, then all the great mass of later witnesses do is attest to the fact that it was the text of choice among New Testament Christians rather than that of Alexandria, Egypt.

Disputed passages found in the Textus Receptus and omitted from flawed modern versions have manuscript attestation from as early as the Second Century, such as Tatian’s (150 A.D.) references to 1 John 5:7. Therefore, if the correct text was established well before 1611 Greek manuscripts produced after that date simply “Amen” the correct text but are simply “more bricks in the wall” which stands on the foundation revealed in the Second Century.

Therefore, the King James Bible is **not** based on inferior manuscripts but **superior** manuscripts. Which in fact preserve the very text of the Originals and which were used by the True Church since its inception.

Secondly, the manuscripts testifying to the original text as found in the King James Bible aren’t inferior in either quality or textual value. I always laugh when a Bible rejector resorts to the lame defense of their corrupt modern version of, “Well, I can still find the doctrines in my modern version, to which I add, yes, the doctrine you learned **from a King James Bible!** (Used by Permission: Question #74, The Second Answer Book, Dr. Samuel C. Gipp, DayStar Pub. Miamitown, OH (2020).

**END**



**Dr. Massa, Pastor Kim Lee and  
Dr. Ventura**

## MOSES SEVEN ASCETS/DECENTS

Most Christians think Moses only went up and down from Mount Sinai, twice, here are some Scriptural facts:

### UP

1. Ex. 19:3
2. Ex. 19:9
3. Ex. 19:20
4. Ex. 20:1
5. Ex. 24:13
6. Ex. 32:30
7. Ex. 34:4

### DOWN

- Ex. 19:7
- Ex. 19:14
- Ex. 19:25
- Ex. 20:19
- Ex. 32:15
- Ex. 33:7
- Ex. 34:29

**END**

## TELEPHONES AND COMPUTERS

JOB 38:35

### FINGERPRINTS FROM GOD

“He sealeth up the hand of every man; that all men may know his work” (Job. 37:7).

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## ABCs OF SALVATION

- A** – All have sinned – Ro. 3:23.
- B** – Be sure your sin will find your out – Nu. 32:32.
- C** – Christ died for our sins – 1 Cor. 15:3.
- D** – Dost thou believe on the Son of God? – Jn. 9:35.

## TEARS OF WISDOM

### GLEANINGS FROM PROVERBS

#### CHAPTER TWO

You can make a wrong decision and still find the will of God for your life. A wrong decision does not throw your life away. You can have the right crowd and mess up big time, i.e., Lot & Abraham – Lot chose Sodom!

God does not stress the decision – God stresses the direction. If you are going in the right direction you can mess up and still be in the will of God. Lot had the right crowd with Abraham, but Lot’s heart was in the wrong direction.

#### **1. God’s Preference For Your Life:**

God is not in this proverb stressing the right decision, but the right direction. God’s desire is for you to walk in the right direction.

#### **2. Three Directions A Person Can Choose To Walk In:**

**(1) Vs. 9 – “good path”** – going in the right direction, Ro. 8:28 – promise of God – He can work it out for good to get you further along in His will. **“understand righteousness”** – you have to be willing to live right = **“good path”**. **“judgment”** – willing to judge self every day. **“equity”** – attempt to be peaceful with other people. **(2) Vs. 15 – “the crooked path”** – this path is not characterized by the decisions people made, but by their character – **Vs. 12**

describes this person (He can make a right decision to go to Church, but be evil still. **“forward”** – out of line – attitude problem, and they like their company, too. The first thing to go on that crooked path is the tongue – they will recruit people for evil. **Vs. 13** – they live like lost people. Used to walk with the right crowd, but now in the direction of the world. Your tongue reveals the direction of your soul. **Vs. 14** – on the crooked path: Criticizing; Thinking Like The World – standards go out the window; Falling in love with sin – infatuated with sin. **(3) Vs. 19 – “Path of No Return”** – Comes by following the crooked path. There are two characteristics Solomon applies to the path – using a woman to describe it: 1. Vs. 16 – tongue problem; 2. Vs. 17 – is a rebel – **“the guide of her youth”** = parents, and turn back on God. **“forgetteth the covenant of God”** – forsook by choice – doing all she can to make shipwreck of men.

As long as your heart is right with God, God can transform those wrong decisions for good. You please God by going in the right direction.

### **3. God Offers Protection:**

God offers protection so we never have to depart from the **“good path”**. If you do this one thing, you will stay on the **“good path”** – **THE FEAR OF THE LORD!**

Godly fear consists of: 1) **Vs. 1 – “receive”** – take the Bible and eat it up! 2) **Vs. 3 – “lift up thy voice”** -keep crying for an answer. 3) **Vs. 4 – “seeketh”** – We must make pleasing God our primary goal = “ZEAL”!

### **4. God’s Provision For Your Life:**

Once you obtain the Fear of The Lord you find four benefits: 1) **Vs. 6 – “wisdom”** when you ask for it. 2) **Vs. 7 – “layeth up”** God gives you wisdom He already stored up for you – you needed down the road to make

decisions. - 3) **Vs. 7 – “buckler”** – A shield. God will protect you. Run to God when into trouble and God will protect you. 4) **Vs. 11 – “Discretion”** = a plan! **“understanding”** – God’s plan; and you are unskilled but God knows what He is doing – God’s discretion and understanding, because when evil comes, God has a plan to get you out!

God is saying – You just get on the right road, and I will do the driving!!!

**END**

## **PROBLEM TEXT**

There are over 400 problem texts in the Bible. Most are easily explained. Some “supposed contradictions” It could be a text which teaches something that appears to be seemingly wrong. Texts that seemingly defy explanation, as it stands, i.e., Ro. 8:1 – the verse says, if I’m in Christ and walking after the flesh, I am condemned! The condemnation is not spiritual/eternal, but physical. The NASV, NIV, and RSV omit the last part of the verse – they could not deal with it, so they say, “must be wrong, someone put that in”. Jesus said wisdom is justified of her children. Amen? Amen! You see, all the clowns are not in the circus.

So, why would God allow problem texts.

1) To identify Himself as the Author. Man has a finite mind, God is infinite. You can’t understand all of it. 2) To stimulate you to study (2 Tim. 2:15) – stimulate you to try to find out the answer(s) – to study it out. 3) To test your heart and motives. 4) To lead you into deeper truths.

Why do people think there are errors in the Bible? (1) Because they are unsaved – 1 Cor. 2:14; Jn. 3:20, 21; Prov. 15:10. (2) Saved but carnal – 1 Cor. 3:2-3. (3) Because of differences

in numbers, names, and places. Just compare Mt. 10:2-4 with Mk. 3:16-19. Go a step further and compare Lk. 6:14-16. Oh, how about Acts 1:13-14. However, you notice there are no errors/mistakes.

Moreover, why people think there are errors/mistakes in the Bible, in addition to the abovementioned: (4) Some passages are not in chronological order. (5) Different details in similar text. For instance, Comparing Mk. 5:1-20 with Mt. 8:28-34. Mk. Vss. 1-2 "a man". Mt. vs. 28 "two possessed with devils". Notice the name of the place: "Gadarenes" and "Gergesenes". Same place, different names! (6) Texts which teach something contrary to what you believe. Good example of this is found in 1 Jn. 5:7-8 known in theological terms as the "Johanine Coma". The NIV holds, "For there are three that bear record in heaven" the rest of the verse is missing, thus, removing the Trinity/Godhead. They make the three of verse 7 to be vs.8. The NASV Changes vs. 7; vs. 8 omitting "in earth".

Some things to consider about the Bible (KJB). (a)The Bible has never been proven to be in error in a court of law. Let us examine a couple of terms: "Enquiring Facts" – The credibility of a witness depends first on the opportunity he/she has in observing the facts to which he/she testifies. In other words, did they really have opportunity to see what we are asking them about. "Law of Evidence" – It takes to where the testimony of one eye-witness is reduced to writing and is unrefuted in his own generation; it is fixed for all future times. His testimony cannot be refuted or questioned unless new and conclusive evidence is found. (b) "The testimony of the Scriptures" – It is the inspiration and infallibility = 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20-21. (Prophecy in the Bible is any declaration of truth, past, present, or

future); Ps. 12:6-7; Mt. 24:35; Isa. 40:6-8; Ps. 119:89, 140; Mt. 5:17-18). (c) There are no proven contradictions in the Bible, but there are discrepancies. A contradiction means to completely deny something said or stated, saying something completely opposite. A discrepancy is a disagreement between statements. Could be due to date of writing might be one – Lev. 11 = can and can't eat – Acts 10:9. Peter's vision – 1 Tim. 4:4-5.

Here is an example of a simple discrepancy: The question is: Who is speaking? Job. 12:6 is the speaker – Job is not telling the truth, but God is recording what Job said! There appears to be a discrepancy when it comes to the Sea of Galilee, also known as Tiberias (Jn. 21:1), Gennesaret (Lk. 5:1), and in the O.T. known as Chinnereth (Nu. 34:11).

Moreover, some words have an opposite meaning, i.e., Ro. 1:13 – "let" means in the text and context, to hinder.

Remember, I said the Bible has never been proven to be in error in a court of law. In a court of law there are certain things you must do to prove a contradiction: (1) You must prove the evidence is the exact words of the text; (2) Show the passage is in the original; (3) Must prove that your interpretation is the only possible interpretation; (4) Prove the path of reconciliation is impossible; (5) Must not use the document you use as evidence as false. Using this standard of evidence you cannot prove the Bible (KJB A.V) to be wrong!!!

**END**



**Dr. Ventura, Pastor Vasquez and  
Dr. Grady**

### **A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM DR. VENTURA**

As many of you know, recently I travelled to preach at the Bible Believer's Baptist Church, Imperial Beach, CA. This is the first Church the Lord had me plant after leaving 26 years of prison life. Pastor Angel Vasquez is the current Pastor. This was a revival meeting. It was a blessing to see how much the Church had grown, and to be greeted in such a special way. The entire Church Membership lined the entry way and greeted me with a handshake! Truly above and beyond what was expected.

On a Saturday afternoon I gave my testimony – and that included the ministries of FBCW, GSBBI with an emphasis on the Prison Ministry. I did admonish Pastors to remember, some of the Christians coming home from prison, have been teaching and preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that in "Sound Doctrine" for many years. That, some Pastors are not allowing these Brothers to serve the Lord for some months after coming to Church. That, this is discouraging to these men of God! I

believe those Pastors in attendance got the message!!!

On the following Sunday afternoon, taking the Pulpit again, because it was the last day of the revival, and God put it on my heart these folks needed to make some decisions about themselves and their relationship to the Lord, and their own service to the ministry, and to the Church in general – the Lord had the sermon come from 1 Kings 18, titled, "How Long Halt Ye Between Two Opinions?"

After the Sunday Service, and generous offering to cover some of the travel costs, I headed for South Dakota to Pastor Rocky Shanks Church. Arrived at a hotel Tuesday morning and got some well-needed rest. I do not like to fly, so this trip is all Bronco! On Wednesday evening, Pastor Shanks who had never heard my testimony asked for it instead of a sermon. Now, I had preached at Pastor Shanks Church several times when it was in the State of Delaware. He knew I had been in prison, but never, ever asked why. Pastor Shanks would tell the Congregation, "Dr. Ventura was in prison, I don't know why. All I know is his heart is right with the Lord!" This time, Pastor Shanks said he wanted me to give my testimony, because his Church People could not understand how a man could serve 26yrs. in prison, and be a Pastor! Well, they know now! Amen? Amen. Because God called me to the ministry – that's why, and there ain't no more to it!!! And yes, again, I specifically made sure to mention the Prison Ministry and how God has blessed it, and how the Brethren are winning more souls than Brethren out in Society.

I would be remiss to mention Pastor Shank's Baptist Church is under a place called the "Pizza Farm"! We joked about putting a shoot in so when he wanted pizza it could be

slid down to him! By the way, Pastor Shanks, his Wife, and I enjoyed pizza and chicken before the service!

Upon departing, Pastor Shanks gave to me a gracious offering specifically to be used for the Prison Ministry, or any other travel need.

Woke up Thursday morning and headed for the East Coast. By the time I got near Chicago, I began to miss the Church in CT and answering prisoner mail and Emails. Missed my Wife and our two cats, Martha and Mary. So, against the doctors orders (blood clots still in my right leg), I drove about 28 hrs. straight home!

Please be sure of this, my heart stands with great gratitude for all of your thoughts and prayers for travelling mercies. God did answer your prayers. Experienced some very close calls, especially in Houston, TX.

For those of you who do not know, there is a CB (Citizen Band) radio in the Bronco. That allowed me to use the handle "Rolling Preacher", as I was able to preach in every State across the country to "Drivers" (they no longer call themselves "Truckers").

Brothers in prison, let me specifically address and encourage you right here and now. After coming out of prison, some Pastors would not let me teach or preach in their Churches. Yet, God has allowed me to preach in every state via CB Radio, except Hawaii, Maine, RI., and Puerto Rico. Hold on! God has allowed me to preach in Churches in Orangeburg, NC, Materia, LA., Delaware, CT., CA.

Brothers in prisons of steel and concrete, I am not bragging, because without Jesus Christ there is nothing good about me. But, if you will surrender completely to the Lord, there is no limit as to what God can and will do with and in your life. Prisoners only, of course not.

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promises, as some men count slackness, but is

longsuffering to us-ward..." (2 Pet. 3:9). The Lord asked Isaiah: "...Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" You know what Isaiah's answer was: "...Here *am* I; send me." And God said; "GO". (Isa. 6:8-9). Yep, God said go boy go! And Isaiah was gone doing the will of the Lord. How about you?

**END**



## **PRAYER**

"I EXHORT therefore. That first of all Supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks, be made for all men" (1 Tim. 2:1).

### Two things to know about this verse:

1) "I EXHORT" – meaning to stir up, encourage, to implore.

2) "first of all" – this is a priority in the Christian's life.

### I. FOUR (4) TYPES OF PRAYER:

1. Supplication:

Essentially a strong seeking. When a person supplicates the Lord, they want God to supply the NEEDS (not wants) of their life.

2. Prayers:

Prayers, meaning any request asking or petitioning the Lord. Jesus Christ said: “And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and ye shall find; knock and it shall be open unto you” (Lk. 11:19).

3) Intercession:

Intercession is a prayer on behalf of someone else who doesn’t even see that they need prayer. Intercessory prayer can for or against someone. Paul wrote in his Epistle, Romans Chapter 11:2: “Wot ye not what the scripture saith to Elias? How that he made intercession to God against Israel...”.

4) Imprecatory:

(Ps.58:6-7). However, Christians are not to pray imprecatory prayers. Jesus said: “Ye have heard that it has been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thy enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you” (Mt. 5:43 - 44). In Romans Paul wrote we are to love with men as peacefully as possible, and not take vengeance as vengeance belongs to the Lord (Ro. 12:18 – 21). If you take vengeance, then you are stealing from the Lord!

II. “giving of thanks”:

1. I Thess. 5:18 – “In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you”.

III. “in my name”:

“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it” (Jn. 14:13 – 14).

**END**



**Assistant Pastor George**

**HOW TO BE SAVED**

Admit you are a sinner. Ask God to forgive you for your sins. Tell God you believe Jesus Christ shed His precious Blood upon the Cross. That you believe Jesus died, was buried, and resurrected the third day and is now seated at God’s right hand.

The Word of God says: “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confess is made unto salvation” (Ro. 10:9-10). “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Ro. 10:13)

**END**

## RESOURCES FOR YOU

The following Christian resources are available in so much as funding is available to provide them, and they remain in stock:

### COURSES

#### Discipleship Course #1

This is a foundational Sound Doctrine 21 lesson course. Those who complete the course successfully are awarded a Certificate of Completion worthy of framing!

#### Advanced Discipleship Certificate Courses:

Romans, Hebrews, I Corinthians, The Church, and, How to Study the Bible, General Epistles, Minor Prophets, Paul's Prison Epistles, Isaiah.

#### Golden State Bible Baptist Institute

Associate Degree of Theology

### BOOKS

One Heartbeat Away  
One Thing You Can't Do In Heaven  
Repentance and Soul Winning

#### Booklets By Mark Cahill

The Second Greatest Lie Ever Told

One Second After You . . .

#### Books By David Cloud

Prayer in Perilous Times  
The Seekers Bible Study  
The Church: Pillar & Ground of the Truth

#### Books By William P. Grady

What Must I Do To Be Saved

All herein listed resources are free of charge, so long as supply lasts, and the Lord provides!

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