



Wednesdays @ 11am via Facebook Live

Embracing Life!

OCTOBER 4TH (NO CLASS),
11TH, 18TH, 25TH

All are invited to join us!

EMBRACE YOUR LIFE

*Ministry of
Biblical Studies*

• LIVE

October 18, 2023



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
MINISTRY OF BIBLICAL STUDIES Handout
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Welcome to the Metropolitan Community Church
Ministry of Biblical Study Classes
Embracing Life!
Wednesday, October 18th, 2023

Embracing life is the willingness to embrace our lot. Jesus is able to accept where he is and what he must do, as God's will for him, and in that he achieves a real freedom and peace. So this, also, is to choose life. It is to choose our lot.

October 11th - How Do We Learn Abundant Life?

October 18th - Courage to Choose Life.

Jesus said, "I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly." So, today let us again this day choose life that today God may bless us and we, one another.

October 25th - Yes I Can.

CHOOSE
Life

QUESTION:

What does it mean to have courage to choose life? (Deuteronomy 30:19)

ANSWER:

In Deuteronomy 30:19–20, we find one of Scripture’s most direct communications regarding the choices we make and God’s will for His people: “Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life” (Deuteronomy 30:19–20, NLT).

As Moses nears the end of his ministry, he counsels God’s people to choose life. He outlines the way to do this: “Love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life” (Deuteronomy 30:20). Moses reviews the terms of the covenant, explaining to the people of Israel that walking in a covenant relationship with God means making a radical decision to commit themselves wholly to the Lord and His ways (see Exodus 19:3–9; Joshua 24:15–24). To choose the Lord is to choose life.

Choose life indicates that people have a choice, a decision to make. We choose life by choosing God. When we respond to the Lord in faith, love, and obedience, we receive life eternal. Under the Old Covenant, Israel received life abounding with all God’s goodness and physical blessings (Deuteronomy 11:26; 30:2–10; 15; Psalm 21:4–6). Under the New Covenant, believers in Christ receive abundant life (John 10:10; Ephesians 1:3–14).

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die" (John 11:25). We choose life when we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and dedicate ourselves to following Him. He becomes our life (Colossians 3:4). The Lord gives His followers "a rich and satisfying life" (John 10:10, NLT). Our obedience to God brings life now in all its fullness, as well as life eternal (John 17:3; Psalm 16:11). But disobedience results in the greatest curse of all—death and destruction now and forever (Matthew 7:13; 2 Thessalonians 1:8–9; Hebrews 2:2–3).

The life God offers—the life Israel was to choose—was lived out in worship of God, in purity, justice, fairness toward the weak and poor, and through obedience to all the instructions Moses had laid out. Choosing life was choosing the Lord's way above their own. Any other choice would lead to tragedy and death.

The call of Moses to choose life was not only about obeying rules. It was a call to the heart: "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul" (Deuteronomy 10:12; see also Deuteronomy 6:5; 11:13–14). Jesus issued this same call as the first and greatest commandment: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37–38).

Loving the Lord is the first step in choosing life. When we love the Lord, we desire to know Him intimately. We hear His voice and follow (John 10:3, 27). One feature of the relationship between a shepherd and his flock is that sheep always recognize their shepherd's voice. As we get to know the Lord intimately, we become aware that He is our Great Shepherd (Hebrews 13:20). Whenever we might be tempted to turn away to the right or the left, our Shepherd is there, telling us the right way to go (Isaiah 30:21). We will obey and follow the voice of the Lord because we know and trust Him deeply.

We choose life when we choose God, who is the giver and sustainer of life (Acts 17:25). The Bible says God breathed the breath of life into humans (Genesis 2:7). Since our lives are a gift from God (Psalm 139:13; Acts 17:28), our highest aim ought to be living for Him. Jesus said, "If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it" (Matthew 10:39, NLT). We choose life by letting go of selfish desires and living for His sake. Then we can say like the apostle Paul, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21).

The Most Important Biblical Lesson On Courage (With Examples)

Courage is one of those attributes that both believers and unbelievers struggle to develop. Come to think of it, there is probably no point where we are entirely courageous. There is always some situation that calls for more courage than we presently have.

The Bible isn't silent on the need for us to be courageous. Through its references to the word courage, an important lesson stands out on how we can be.

That lesson is God enables us to be courageous.

In this article, I'll share biblical examples of how God enabled people to be courageous. They should give you new insight into what it means to be courageous and that in turn will help you to be.

David Credits God For His Courage

One biblical example of courage that just about everyone knows about is David fighting Goliath. Goliath was a giant and all of the trained Israeli soldiers at the time were afraid to fight him.

On the other hand, David although a boy had the courage to face Goliath and ultimately defeated him.

Where did such courage come from? It's found in David's response to Saul when Saul told him he was no match for Goliath. David said:

"Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it.

Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God.

The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

1 Samuel 17:34-37 NIV

David acknowledged that God rescued him from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear. He determined that Goliath (the Philistine) would be similar. This means the courage he had was based on past experiences of God bringing him through. it.

Build Courage From What God Brought You Through

As I've stated at the start of the article, there appears to always be some situation that calls for more courage than we presently have.

Learning from what enabled David to have the courage to face Goliath, we can compare present challenges that call for courage to previous challenges that God brought us through.

It's almost like God builds our faith in him one obstacle at a time. As soon as we have enough courage in him to conquer one thing, we graduate to the next.

As I write this, I remember the time I took over a youth group in my early twenties. There was an annual youth report I was tasked with writing but was too afraid to do so.

Since then, God has built my courage to where I have written multiple reports, articles, and a book.

The thing that may seem scary now will be your testimony later.

Another biblical example of courage that shows God enables us to be courageous is the courage Joshua and Caleb had when they wanted to take the promised land. The story is commonly referred to as the 12 spies.

In summary, a representative from each Israeli tribe was sent to spy on the land God was going to give them. Of the 12 of them that went, only Joshua and Caleb had the courage to attack the people of the land in order to capture it.

Unlike their fellow spies, they understood that God was going to help them and because of it, success was guaranteed. Understanding this truth, there was no reason to be afraid. Here it is in their own words.

The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good.

If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us.

Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them."

Numbers 14:7-9 NIV

So you see, their courage was based on the fact that they knew God was on their side. In contrast, the other spies that witnessed the same land didn't acknowledge God as their help and were afraid.