

Courage Over Fear

Theme: Building Godly Character

Key Scripture: *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."* — Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

Opening Story

Fear has a way of making us question everything.

During my military career, there were moments when uncertainty filled the air. New assignments, difficult decisions, and dangerous situations often brought fear to the surface. I learned early on that courage is not the absence of fear—it's the decision to move forward despite it.

I remember standing at the edge of a major transition in my life, wondering whether I was prepared for what lay ahead. Questions raced through my mind:

"What if I fail?"

"What if I'm not good enough?"

"What if things don't work out?"

Fear has a way of magnifying obstacles and minimizing God's promises.

The truth is, every man faces fear. We fear failure, rejection, disappointment, uncertainty, and loss. We fear stepping into the unknown and leaving behind what feels safe and familiar.

But throughout Scripture, God repeatedly tells His people, **"Do not be afraid."**

Why?

Because courage is not rooted in our strength—it's rooted in God's presence.

Scripture Focus

Joshua 1:9

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Additional Scriptures:

- Isaiah 41:10
 - Psalm 27:1
 - 2 Timothy 1:7
 - Deuteronomy 31:6
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The Lesson

Fear is one of the enemy's favorite weapons.

Fear convinces us to stay silent when God calls us to speak.

Fear keeps us comfortable when God calls us to move.

Fear causes us to doubt when God calls us to trust.

But courage is not the absence of fear—it's obedience in the presence of fear.

Joshua understood this lesson well. After Moses' death, Joshua faced the overwhelming responsibility of leading an entire nation into the Promised Land. He wasn't stepping into an easy assignment. There were battles ahead, uncertainties to face, and obstacles to overcome.

Yet God didn't promise Joshua an easy road.

He promised His presence.

"For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

That same promise is true for us today.

God never promised that following Him would remove every challenge, but He did promise that we would never face those challenges alone.

Think about some of the men in Scripture:

- David faced Goliath.
- Esther risked her life before the king.
- Peter stepped out onto the water.
- Paul preached despite persecution.

None of these men and women were fearless.

They were faithful.

Their courage came from trusting God more than they trusted their fears.

As men, fear often disguises itself in subtle ways:

- Fear of failure keeps us from pursuing our calling.
- Fear of rejection keeps us from being vulnerable.
- Fear of criticism keeps us from standing for truth.
- Fear of change keeps us from growing.

The greatest opportunities in your life may require the greatest faith.

Courage doesn't mean you have all the answers.

It means you trust the One who does.

Every time you choose faith over fear, your confidence in God grows stronger.

Reflection Questions

1. What fear has been holding you back in this season of life?
 2. How has fear affected your faith, relationships, or decisions?
 3. What is God calling you to do that feels uncomfortable or uncertain?
 4. How can you remind yourself of God's presence when fear arises?
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Today's Challenge

Identify one fear that has been limiting your growth.

Write it down and then write a promise from God's Word that speaks directly to that fear.

Take one practical step this week that moves you toward faith instead of away from it.

Ask yourself:

"What would I do if I truly believed God was with me?"

Then take that step.

Remember:

Courage is not the absence of fear; it is choosing to trust God in the middle of it.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your promise to never leave me or forsake me. Forgive me for the times I've allowed fear to control my thoughts and decisions.

Fill my heart with courage and remind me that my strength comes from You. Help me trust Your promises more than my fears and give me the faith to move forward even when the future is uncertain.

Teach me to walk boldly in the calling You've placed on my life, knowing that You are with me every step of the way.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

This Week's Takeaway

**Fear focuses on the obstacles ahead; faith focuses on the God who goes before you.
Courage is choosing to trust God's presence and promises more than your fears.**