
NO FEAR

Part 4 - Courage and Faith

Introduction

What does courage look like to you?

We are going to put this 'no fear' thing into first gear and just start to rev the engine and drop the clutch!

So, how do we begin to live a life of no fear?

Blind Faith

'Blind faith': to put unquestioning faith in something or someone, even when it seems unreasonable or foolish.

Is that what God is calling us to do?

Hebrews 11:6

But, to make sure you are paying attention, Paul does recognise that this *will* seem like unreasonable foolishness to the world around us.

1 Corinthians 1:18

Faith, as the New Testament uses it, is both the verb and the noun.

Both from the same word root (*pisteuo* is the verb) means this idea of trusting, of something that is trustworthy, reliable, so then has this idea of confidence, certainty, even assurance of guarantee, because of the trustworthiness.

Trust is at its core: and the confidence that comes from trusting something that is trustworthy.

Remember – fear paralyzes purpose.

But no fear means we can live out our purpose. Fearing God (with reverence and awe) because He is God means we need not fear anything else. A big step in that is believing that God created you with a purpose, hence why we need to know our identity. And we aren't designed to be limited by lacking confidence, which can come from guilt and shame in our lives. And so it comes to faith: the confidence to then respond with confidence to what God is saying, and doing, and where He is leading.

God is in the business of creating faith in people, not fear.

Courage!

Here's a simple truth: courage and fear are not mutually exclusive! Courage is not the absence of fear, it's the decision to act in the face of fear.

Psalm 56:3-4

FEAR: 'False Expectations Appearing Real'

Courage is the activation of faith, of believing Jesus, that causes us to step through the veil of fear and exposes those things as false.

Courage comes when you apply your identity in Christ and the truth that He has shown you to a situation.

Battlefield Courage

Paul really helpfully reminds us that we can be lovers of God as we wage war, because:

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (ESV)

The activation of faith through courage is, like your identity, a weapon in your hand!

We remember what God has promised:

Deuteronomy 31:6

Ephesians 6:10

Philippians 4:13

Isaiah 41:10

Where is there fear in your life?

Could it be that God has been cultivating faith in you, and it's time to activate it through courage?

Could the season of pressing in, of re-establishing who you are in Him, has been building to now a point of action?

Maybe you just need to be encouraged.

“Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD!”
– Psalm 31:24 (ESV)

Discussion Questions

1. What does courage look like to you?
2. How would you describe your journey of faith? What has God been building in you?

3. Is your faith blind? What is your faith built on?

4. How does that connect with your identity?

5. Where are the places that you have overcome fear? What has that done for your faith?

6. Where have you (or others) tried to disqualify yourself in the past? What support, encouragement and help can you get to stand strong in the Lord again?

7. What are the places where you struggle with fear the most? How are they connected to your own faith journey?

8. Which of these areas is God inviting you to step through?

Note: Our Streams Courses are coming, which will help you in clarifying and strengthening your identity in Christ, and your calling to be about God's work in the world.

If you haven't done any of these courses, start with the Transforming Course. You can find out more details in the Riverlife News, or on our website.