

Courageous Living

The background of the image is a dark, rich purple color. Scattered throughout this background are numerous small, out-of-focus circular shapes. These shapes vary in color, with some appearing as bright yellow-green and others as a lighter, more muted purple. They resemble microscopic organisms or cells, possibly yeast or bacteria, captured under a microscope. The overall effect is a textured, organic, and somewhat ethereal background.



“Gentlemen, I find it rather inspiring...”

Courageous Living
Is Inspired By God
and
Inspiring To Others!

Be **STRONG** &
Courageous

Do NOT Be
TERRIFIED

Do NOT BE
DISCOURAGED

FOR THE LORD YOUR

GOD

will be
with
YOU

WHEREVER YOU GO. Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:6-9

"Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 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."

What Does A Courageous Christian
Look Like
and
From Where Does Courage Come?

A Courageous Christian Life...

Can Occur

When A Person Of God
In A Community Of God
Is Seeking The Word Of God
Empowered By The Spirit Of God
To Live The Life Of God
While Engaged In The Mission Of God.

The Courageous Christian Life...
Has HOPE!

Obstacles To Hope

1. The Power Of Appearances
2. The Sense Of Our Own Weaknesses
3. The Strength Of The Enemy We Face
4. Personal Failures In Our Past
5. Broken Promises And Deserting Friends

Our Hope Comes From Keeping Our Eyes On God And Christ

Matthew 14:26-31 (NLT2)

When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!" But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!" Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." "Yes, come," Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?"

Hebrews 11:1

Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.

Psalm 39:1-7

I said to myself, “I will watch what I do and not sin in what I say. I will hold my tongue when the ungodly are around me.” But as I stood there in silence— not even speaking of good things— the turmoil within me grew worse. The more I thought about it, the hotter I got, igniting a fire of words: “LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered— how fleeting my life is.

You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to you; at best, each of us is but a breath.”

We are merely moving shadows, and all our busy rushing ends in nothing. We heap up wealth, not knowing who will spend it.

And so, Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in you.

When Hope Is Not Placed In God
And Christ, There Is No Security In
The Future.

We Too Often Place Our Hope In Temporary Things.

- Health
- Skill
- Family
- Political Influence
- Brilliance



**These all begin to
vanish with time.**

To Hope In God Requires
Us To Believe Two
Big Truths.

God is Able!

God is Faithful!

God is Able!

- Hebrews 7:25 – “Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.”
- For believers, it isn’t God’s ability that we doubt.
- We wrestle with the question: “Is he willing and faithful?”

God is Faithful!

- One reason we wrestle with God's faithfulness is we that are often faithless and make so little progress in becoming what He wants us to be.
- We allow our eyes to wander from God, who He is and what He promised to looking at ourselves.
- Then we "project our faithlessness on Him."
- The emphasis of the New Testament is not on our resources and our faithfulness in doing right.

The New Testament Emphasis Is On God's Resources And God's Faithfulness.

Hebrews 13:20-21 – Now may the God of peace— who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with his blood— may he equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen.

You Say, “But I Still Struggle With ‘Is He Willing?’”

- When we struggle with our faith or hope, in God’s willingness, it is God working in us as he promised.
- If not for our belief in God, there would be no struggle, we would just give in to our every fear or desire we have.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**
Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.

God Is Willing!

However, He Is The All-knowing God
And He Wills To Do His Will.

James 4:14-15

How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone.

What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that."

Philippians 2:13

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

There is always hope!

But our hope is in a God who is
all wise
all loving
and
all knowing.

“When will we ever learn that there are no hopeless situations, only people who have grown hopeless about them.”

–Charles Swindoll

Let's Live In Hope,

A Hope That Is Based On Our Faith In
The God Who Saved Us From
Ourselves,
And For His Purposes.

A Prayer of Hope

Dear God and Father, who gave strength to Abraham to hope against hope for the fulfillment of the promises you made to him, we ask you to bless us with that strength too. Take our eyes off ourselves and focus them on you. Teach us to not ask of ourselves what can only come from you and to not ask of you what we by your grace should do. May our hope be as living as is our Savior. Deliver us from anxiety and empower us to trust in your ability and will. We pray with confidence for you are faithful and you will do it. In Jesus name, Amen.