

Courageous Living

Inspired By God
and
Inspiring To Others!

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.



Courageous Christians Have a
Deep Sense of
Calling, Purpose And Mission!

Courageous Christians Have Two Essential Convictions

1. They have been chosen and called, not by themselves but by God in Christ.
2. They have been chosen and called to a purpose and mission greater than themselves.

Chosen And Called By God In Christ.

God In Christ Is The Initiator Of Our
Relationship A Conviction And Concept And
That Changes How We Approach Our Lives
As Christians.

Being Called And Chosen Is A Thoroughly Biblical Concept.

- 1 Corinthians 7:20 (NIV) *Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him.*
- Jude 1:1 (NIV) *Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ:*
- Ephesians 4:4 (NIV) *There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to one hope when you were called*
- 1 Thessalonians 5:24 (NIV) *The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.*

God Always Initiates The Relationship With Him

- 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 (NIV) *For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.*
- 2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NIV) *But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.*

- Matthew 4:19 (NIV) "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."
- John 15:16-17 (NIV) You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.



He Lifted Me

By Charles H. Gabriel

Verse 2

He called me long before I heard,
before my sinful heart was stirred,
but when I took Him at His word,
forgiven, He lifted me.

Being “Called” and “Chosen”
Makes For A Different Attitude.

~Not~

“Maybe I will and maybe I won’t”

~But~

“Others are depending on me. How I
live and what I do matters!”

This Sense Of Being Called, Chosen, And
Depended On Has Led People To Great Service
In The Kingdom.

Chosen For A Purpose Or Mission
Greater Than Themselves.

There is no greatness in any man or woman
in whose heart there does not burn one
grand, all encompassing purpose which
drives him or her, even at awful cost to say,
“I Must!”

Hebrews 11 Is Full of Faithfull People of Mission And Purpose.

- “Moses...refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter (and) chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.”
- “...The prostitute Rahab, (at risk of her own life) because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.”

Hebrews 11:32-38 (NIV)

“I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again...”

“Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated--the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.”

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, (martyrs) let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

Courageous Christians live devoted and significant lives, whatever their calling in life. They all have a sense of calling, purpose and mission to something greater than themselves.

We Serve a Galilean Carpenter Who Did just that.

Philippians 2:5-8 (NIV)

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

We May Easily See That In Certain Vocations.

Health care workers of all kinds, missionaries, soldiers
and peace keepers and etc.

But what about grocers, teachers, farm workers,
truckers?

Parents, Moms And Dads, You Have
Been Chosen And Called For A
Mission.

To Understand This, Take
The “What Then?” Test.

A Prayer For Purpose

Oh God, who from before the foundations of the earth were consumed with a single purpose, remake us in your image. Deliver us from the thousands of trivial pursuits that seem to keep us from being like your son, whose solitary purpose was to do your will. Keep us from allowing ourselves to be a the mercy of the multitude of lesser matters. Help us to “*seek first the kingdom of God and (your) righteousness.*” Bless our commitment with kindness so we will not run roughshod over those who have yet to their place in life with you. But, help us, like our Savior, to “be about our Father’s business.”

In Jesus name, Amen.