

## From Cowards to Courageous People

### I

Cowardly behavior =, i.e., Abraham, Isaac, Peter, etc.

*NASB Revelation 21:7-8* <sup>7</sup> “He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be My son. <sup>8</sup> “But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

### II

Courage = the quality of being brave, not afraid, taking action in the face of fear and being of good cheer.

USA “Land of free & home of the brave”

Civil Rights Leaders = John Lewis, Rosa Parks, Diane Nash, Bob Moses, MLK, etc..

A **Prophetic** word from God will inspire **courage**.

*NASB 2 Chronicles 15:1-7* <sup>1</sup> Now the Spirit of God came on Azariah the son of Oded, <sup>2</sup> and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, “Listen to me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: the Lord is with you when you are with Him. And if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you. <sup>3</sup> “For many days Israel was without the true God and without a teaching priest and without law. <sup>4</sup> “But in their distress they turned to the Lord God of Israel, and they sought Him, and He let them find Him. <sup>5</sup> “In those times there was no peace to him who went out or to him who came in, for many disturbances afflicted all the inhabitants of the lands. <sup>6</sup> “Nation was crushed by nation, and city by city, for God troubled them with every kind of distress. <sup>7</sup> “But you, be strong and do not lose courage, for there is reward for your work.”

*NASB 2 Chronicles 15:8a* <sup>15</sup> Now when Asa heard these words and the prophecy which Azariah the son of Oded the prophet spoke, he took courage and removed the abominable idols from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities which he had captured in the hill country of Ephraim.

*NASB Psalms 27:13c-14* <sup>13</sup> I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living.<sup>14</sup> Wait for the Lord; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord.

*NASB Matthew 9:2* <sup>2</sup> And they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven.”

*NASB Matthew 9:21-22* <sup>21</sup> for she was saying to herself, “If I only touch His garment, I will get well.”<sup>22</sup> But Jesus turning and seeing her said, “Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well.” At once the woman was made well.

*NASB Acts 23:11* <sup>11</sup> But on the night immediately following, the Lord stood at his side and said, “Take courage; for as you have solemnly witnessed to My cause at Jerusalem, so you must witness at Rome also.”

*NASB John 16:32-33* <sup>32</sup> “Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.<sup>33</sup> “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

### III

An enemy of **courage** is **fear**. = (false evidence appearing real).

FDR, in WWII, said, “The only thing to fear is fear itself.”

Yet, people in the church can be **subjected to fear**.

*NASB 2 Corinthians 7:5* <sup>5</sup> For even when we (Paul) came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted on every side: conflicts without, fears within.

*NASB John 7:12-13* <sup>12</sup> There was much grumbling among the crowds concerning Him; some were saying, “He is a good man”; others were saying, “No, on the contrary, He leads the people astray.”<sup>13</sup> Yet no one was speaking openly of Him for fear of the Jews.

*NASB John 19:38* <sup>38</sup> After these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body.

*NASB John 20:19* <sup>19</sup> So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

*NASB Hebrews 2:14-15* <sup>14</sup> Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

## IV

### **Love overcomes Fear**

*NASB 2 Timothy 1:6-7* <sup>6</sup> For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. <sup>7</sup> For God has not given us a spirit of timidity (cowardice or fear) but of power and love and discipline (sound mind).

*NASB 1 John 4:17-18* <sup>17</sup> By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

I have no **fear** when my **Father** is present.

*NASB Proverbs 29:25* <sup>25</sup> The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.

## V

We need **Encouragement** from the Father, Son & the Holy Spirit!

To Encourage = to give courage, strength, hope, & confidence.

i.e. A work-out Partner, A football huddle

*NASB 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11* <sup>9</sup> For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

<sup>NASB</sup> *Hebrews 3:12-13* <sup>12</sup> Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. <sup>13</sup> But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

<sup>NASB</sup> *Hebrews 10:23-25* <sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; <sup>24</sup> and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

<sup>NASB</sup> *Acts 4:36-37* <sup>36</sup> Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement), <sup>37</sup> and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.

*Romans 15:5-6* <sup>5</sup> Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>NASB</sup> *Psalms 23:4-6* <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

<sup>NASB</sup> *Luke 21:25-28* <sup>25</sup> “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, <sup>26</sup> men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> “Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> “But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

*Rhema Christian Center*  
“Skip” Jones, Prophet  
Saturday & Sunday, October 7 & 8, 2023  
9:30 p.m.