

“Showing Integrity and Incorruptibility”

Titus 2:7 - “In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility”

“Showing Integrity and Incorruptibility”

- Good men know that integrity takes moral courage, but even the bravest men often fall short of moral courage.
 - Joshua 1:9 - “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

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- “Moral courage is the courage to take action for moral reasons despite the risk of adverse consequences. Courage is required to take action when one has doubts or fears about the consequences. Moral courage therefore involves deliberation or careful thought. Reflex action and dogmatic fanaticism do not involve moral courage because such impulsive actions are not based upon moral reasoning. Moral courage may also require physical courage when the consequences are punishment or other bodily peril. Fortitude, honesty, incorruptibility, strongmindedness.” *(Wikipedia)*

“Showing Integrity and Incorruptibility”

“Cowards die many times before their deaths;
The valiant never taste of death but once.
Of all the wonders that I yet have heard,
It seems to me most strange that men should fear;
Seeing that death, a necessary end,
Will come when it will come.” *(William Shakespeare, The Tragedy of Julius Caesar. Act II, Scene 2)*

Moral Courage Sometimes Requires Physical Courage

- Heb. 11:32-39 - “And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35 Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. 36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented-- 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. 39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise.”

Moral Courage Sometimes Requires Physical Courage

- Rev. 12:11 - “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”
- Acts 20:22-24 - “And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. 24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”

Moral Courage Sometimes Requires Physical Courage

- Acts 21:10-14 - “And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. 11 When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus says the Holy Spirit, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles. 12 Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. 13 Then Paul answered, What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. 14 So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done.”

We Are More Frequently Threatened By Nontangible Dangers

- Peter was physically courageous, but on occasion lacked moral courage.
 - Matt. 26:33 - “Peter answered and said to Him, Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.”
 - John 18:10 - “Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear...”

We Are More Frequently Threatened By Nontangible Dangers

- He denied the Lord three times.
 - John 18:15-18, 25-27 - “And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. 16 But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in. 17 Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, ‘You are not also one of this Man's disciples, are you?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ 18 Now the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself... 25 Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. Therefore they said to him, ‘You are not also one of His disciples, are you?’ He denied it and said, ‘I am not!’ 26 One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear Peter cut off, said, ‘Did I not see you in the garden with Him?’ 27 Peter then denied again; and immediately a rooster crowed.”

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- He showed a similar lack of courage in Antioch before the Jews and Gentiles.
 - Gal. 2:11-14 - “Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; 12 for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. 13 And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. 14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, ‘If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?’”

We Are More Frequently Threatened By Nontangible Dangers

- The Adversary knows very well the things we are most afraid of: embarrassment, being labeled or judged, unfriendliness, being in the minority, loss of social regard, rejection, and hostility.
- Satan threatens us with these things, knowing that we will do nearly anything to avoid suffering them.
- If we give in to those kinds of pressures, we identify ourselves with those who confess Christ only when there is little risk at stake.

We Are More Frequently Threatened By Nontangible Dangers

- Luke 12:8-9 - “Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. 9 But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.”
- Mark 8:38 - “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels”

Our Courage Is Grounded In God

- Only through Christ that we can do all things.
 - Phil. 4:13 - “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
 - John 14:27 - “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”
 - John 16:33 - “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Our Courage Is Grounded In God

- There is no need for fear.
 - 2Tim. 1:7 - “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

Our Courage Is Grounded In God

- We follow a victorious Savior.
 - Rev. 19:11-16 - “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Courageously Surviving This Dangerous World

- We must care about what is going on. We cannot afford to be apathetic, complacent, or indifferent.
 - 1Cor. 10:12 - “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”

Courageously Surviving This Dangerous World

- We must definitively choose a side. God will not fight with us in our battles if we compromise our convictions and accommodate the enemy.
 - John 4:23-24 - “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Courageously Surviving This Dangerous World

- John 17:14-17 - “I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

Courageously Surviving This Dangerous World

- We must refuse to give up.
 - Heb. 3:6 - “But Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.”
 - Gal. 6:9 - “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

Courageously Surviving This Dangerous World

- 2Cor. 4:16-18 - “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”
- Heb. 12:1-2 - “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Courageously Surviving This Dangerous World

- Jesus did not pray that His disciples be taken out of the world, but that they be protected from the work of Satan in this world.
 - John 17:15 - “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.”

“Showing Integrity and Incorruptibility”

- Great opportunities are often attended by great adversity.
 - 1Cor. 16:9 - “For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”
- But cowardice will send us to perdition.
 - Rev. 21:8 - “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

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- Rom. 8:31, 35-39 - “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- There is more joy in one moment of integrity and moral courage than there is in a lifetime of yielding to the pressure of the world.

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- “There are so many ways to be brave in this world. Sometimes bravery involves laying down your life for something bigger than yourself, or for someone else. Sometimes it involves giving up everything you have ever known, or everyone you have ever loved, for the sake of something greater. Sometimes it is nothing more than gritting your teeth through pain, and the work of every day, the slow walk toward a better life.” (*Veronica Roth, Allegiant*)
- “I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.” (*Nelson Mandela*)