

Proverbs 28:1

1 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

9 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Samuel 17:43-46

43 He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!" 45 David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.

Daniel 3:16-18

16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. 18 But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

Acts 4:29-31

29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

2 Timothy 1:7

7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

Luke 9:51

51 As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

Acts 14:19-22

19 Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. 20 But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe. 21 They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch,

22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.

Romans 1:16

16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

"Courage is resistance to fear, master of fear, not absence of fear." Mark Twain

"Courage is fear that has said its prayers." Karl Barth

"One man with courage is a majority." Andrew Jackson

Discussion Questions

1. The key scripture in this week's message was Revelation 21:6-8. Discuss the concept that some are on the inside of the eternal city and some are on the outside of the eternal city. Why do we, in our culture, struggle with the fact that some people are on the outside of the Kingdom of God?
2. What are some of the negative characteristics of people that are on the outside of the city? What is the first negative characteristic listed?
3. Why do you think it takes courage to live the Christian life?
4. Comment on some of the Biblical characters that displayed great courage, re-tell their story and identify the areas where they showed courage. What can you learn from their heroic trust in the Lord?
 - David in 1 Samuel 17:43-46
 - Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego in Daniel 3:16-18
 - Paul in Acts 14:19-22
 - Jesus in Luke 9:51
5. Did the apostles naturally have boldness or confidence or did they have to supernaturally pray for the Lord to endow them with it? Acts 4:29-31, 2 Timothy 1:7
6. Does struggling with fear mean we cannot act with courage?
7. What are areas that you need to have more courage?
8. Wrestling with adversity for our faith is normal to the Christian. How important is it that we link up with others to withstand the adversity we sometimes receive for our faith? How did the film clip from the 2000 film, *Gladiator*, illustrate this?

Concluding Thought

Courage is essential to the Christian life. You cannot be a Christian without having courage. If you are weak in having courage then the good news is that we can bring our timidity and fear to the Lord and exchange it for confidence and courage.