

Joshua 1:6-9 (NLT) - 6 “Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. 7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. 8 Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. 9 This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Courage doesn't come from the absence of fear, but rather the presence of God.

“Courage is not simply one of the virtues but the form of every virtue at the testing point, which means at the point of highest reality.”

– C.S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters

Study Guide

This last week we spoke about courage, and that courage comes not from the absence of fear, but by the presence of God. When you think about times where you felt you had courage, what was that like? Or perhaps you've seen someone else demonstrate great courage, what did that look like for them?

Take a moment to read 2 Timothy 1:5-11. When you read this scripture, what do you think it has to say about courage as a Christian? How do you think Paul sees courage in his and Timothy's life? Where does it come from? What does it do?

Paul takes the time to encourage Timothy to be strong and courageous but takes a bit of a different tact in that he connects it to being ashamed. Paul was in prison and Christians were being arrested and executed, and yet Paul doesn't simply tell Timothy not to be afraid, but rather that he should not be ashamed. Paul makes an important connection between fear and shame, which he is encouraging both Timothy and us to not fall into. What do you think Christians today would struggle with being ashamed about? Is there any source of shame that is holding you back? How could you move past that?

Take some time to pray for freedom and courage for each other.

4. Of all the verses listed and referred to in our de facto study of “weakness”, which spoke most to you? What is the Lord showing you about yourself and more importantly, about Himself?

5. Make these revelations the focus of your personal prayers for the coming week. Carefully and attentively listen to what the Lord is speaking to you about. Don't be in a hurry; slowly and deliberately bring your weakness before the Lord.