

THE PLACE OF COURAGE

Cultivating Character – Part 6

August 17, 2014

DEFINITION: *“Character is what you do when no one is looking... Character is who you are.”*

2 Timothy 1:7(NLT) *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.”*

TO FOLLOW JESUS YOU NEED...

1. Courage in the ORDINARY.

Joshua 1:9 (NIV) *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”*

Joshua 24:15 (NIV) *“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”*

2. Courage to be VULNERABLE.

1 John 1:9 (GNT) *“If we confess our sins to God, He will keep His promise and do what is right: He will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing.”*

James 5:16 (NIV) *“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”*

Revealing your SIN is the beginning of healing.

3. Courage to do His WILL.

1 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV) *“We live by faith, not by sight.”*

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV) *“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”*

Proverbs 3:6 (NLT) *“Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.”*

4. Courage in your RELATIONSHIPS.

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) *“Be kind and compassionate with one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”*

James 5:20 (NIV) *“Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.”*

5. Courage to be MORAL.

Ephesians 5:8-11 (NIV) *“Live as children of light⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth)¹⁰and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.”*

HOW CAN YOU GROW IN COURAGE?

1. Face your CRIPPLING FEARS.

Matthew 14:25-27 (NIV) *“Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶When the disciples saw Him walking on the lake, they were terrified. ‘It’s a ghost,’ they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷But Jesus immediately said to them: ‘Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.’ ”*

John 20:19 (NIV) *“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’ ”*

2. Surround yourself with GOOD MODELS.

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV) *“Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character.’ ”*

If you want to grow in courage, make an intentional choice to increase your exposure to courageous people.

3. Allow your mind to be TRANSFORMED.

Romans 12:2a (NIV) *“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”*

Do you have the courage to give God control of your life?