

CLASS 7

Developing Godly Courage and Faith

CLASS OVERVIEW

In this class we will review:

- The definition and meanings of courage and faith.
- The necessity of courage and faith for godly leaders.
- How courage and faith affect Christian leadership.
- How to build and maintain courage and faith.

Opening Group Questions:

- What are courage and faith?
- Why are they vital traits for godly leaders?

I. Introduction

The position of a leader is both challenging and rewarding. Anyone aspiring to lead must develop the courage and faith to handle difficult or unpopular issues or situations.

Courage is: the "mental or moral strength to resist opposition, danger, or hardship" (*Merriam-Webster Dictionary Online*, 1/11/06, <http://www.m-w.com/dictionary/character>). Courage is the determination to persist, hold on and not give up and quit when the going gets tough. We are not born with courage, but aspiring leaders can work with God to cultivate this vital quality.

Courage takes several forms:

- *Physical courage*—when people take physical risks under adverse conditions.
- *Mental courage*—when people make themselves do difficult things, despite anticipated outcomes.
- *Moral courage*—when people hold onto "right" beliefs or behaviors under pressure.

Courage is...

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| • "doing what you are afraid to do" | -Eddie Rickenbacker |
| • "the mastery of fear, not the absence of it" | -Mark Twain |
| • "when a coward turns away, but a brave man's choice is danger" | -Euripides |
| • "like love, it must have hope for nourishment" | -Napoleon |

Faith is "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). It is the belief in God's promises, and in His ability to bring them to pass.

II. Biblical Instructions on Courage and Faith

Deut 31:1-8—Moses encouraged Israel to be strong and of **good courage** because God would not leave or forsake them.

Joshua 1:1-9—God commanded Joshua to be strong and **very courageous**. And commanded Israel to do their job, obey Him, and not to be afraid.

1 Chron 28:9, 10, 20—David told Solomon to be strong and of **good courage**.