



COURAGEOUS FAITH

21 DAYS OF DEVOTION

COURAGEOUS FAITH

21 DAYS OF DEVOTION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 01. Welcome
- 03. Day 1: Abraham's Call
- 07. Day 2: Moses' Obedience
- 11. Day 3: Joshua's Leadership
- 15. Day 4: Gideon's Trust
- 19. Day 5: David's Battle
- 23. Day 6: Esther's Courage
- 27. Day 7: Daniel's Friends
- 31. Day 8: Peter's Leap
- 35. Day 9: Paul's Mission
- 39. Day 10: The Widow's Offering
- 43. Day 11: The Faith of the Centurion
- 47. Day 12: Hannah's Prayer
- 51. Day 13: The Faith of a Bold Woman
- 55. Day 14: The Samaritan's Kindness
- 59. Day 15: The Early Church's Boldness
- 63. Day 16: Lydia's Hospitality
- 67. Day 17: The Thief on the Cross
- 71. Day 18: Solomon's Wisdom
- 75. Day 19: Nehemiah's Vision
- 79. Day 20: The Apostle John's Faith
- 83. Day 21: The Great Commission

WELCOME

Welcome to "Courageous Faith," a 21-day devotional journey designed to inspire you to take bold steps of faith in your daily life. Just as the 'Great Commission' isn't the 'Great Suggestion,' this devotional is not merely a suggestion—it's a call to action for every believer. Over the next three weeks, we'll dive into the lives of biblical characters who exemplified courage and unwavering trust in God, encouraging you to step out of your comfort zone and rely on the Holy Spirit's power. All scripture used in the devotional is from the New International Version of the Bible.

Each day features a scripture that speaks to the heart of courageous faith, a thought to challenge your perspective, and an action step that will push you into new territory. Here are some practical tips to help you maximize this experience:

- 1. Carve Out Dedicated Time:** Just as Jesus set aside time for prayer and communion with the Father, find a specific time each day to engage with the devotional. Whether it's in the quiet of the morning or the stillness of the evening, consistency is key.
- 2. Create a Sacred Space:** Find a spot where you can meet with God without distractions. This space should be your sanctuary, a place where you can reflect, pray, and listen to the Holy Spirit.
- 3. Journal Your Journey:** Keep a journal handy to jot down thoughts, prayers, and insights as you progress through each day. Documenting your journey not only helps you track growth but also allows you to look back and see how God has been at work.
- 4. Pray for Insight:** Begin each day by inviting the Holy Spirit to illuminate your understanding of His Word. Just as we need to be with Jesus to be empowered, we need His guidance to live out these truths.

5. Embrace the Action Steps: The action steps are designed to challenge you and require faith. Don't shy away from these bold moves—embrace them as opportunities to grow and trust in God's faithfulness.

6. Reflect on Your Growth: At the end of the 21 days, take time to reflect on the bold steps you've taken and how your faith has deepened. Celebrate your journey and consider how you can continue to live out courageous faith moving forward.

As you embark on this journey, remember that the call to courageous faith is not just for a select few; it's for every follower of Christ. You are not alone in this—Jesus is with you, empowering you to be a witness and speak His truth. Let's dive in and see how God will move as we take these bold steps together!

DAY 1

ABRAHAM'S CALL

"The Lord had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people, and your father's household to the land I will show you.'"

Genesis 12:1

Faith Thought: Abraham stepped out in faith, leaving everything familiar behind. He had to be willing to leave his homeland and family members to follow the call of God on his life. This was not an easy step for someone who was very comfortable with his surroundings and familiar family faces. Sometimes the hardest thing to do in life is to disconnect with people to connect with God's purpose for our lives. However, that's exactly what God was asking of Abraham. It was not enough for Abraham to hear the call. He had to step out in faith and pursue the call of God on his life.

What are we holding onto that's keeping us from taking a courageous step toward following the call of God for our lives? There are so many things in life that we can hold onto. However, we must be willing to let go of the familiar and hold onto the call of God. Solomon said it this way in Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

The path becomes brighter and straight when we learn to put our trust in God. Sometimes the inward fight between our ears gets the best of us. However, following God does not always make sense and at times seems impossible. Abraham simply heard God and obeyed God. Be encouraged and keep walking forward in courageous faith. Like Abraham, we will arrive at God's destination for our lives.

Action Step: Identify one area in your life where God is calling you to step out in faith. Write it down and pray for courage. After praying for courage, take a step of faith and follow Jesus.

Additional Scripture:

Genesis 15:6

Genesis 22:1-6

Hebrews 11:8-9

DAY 2

MOSES' OBEDIENCE

"So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

Exodus 3:10 (NIV)

Faith Thought: At this point in Moses' life, he was in Midian on the far side of the wilderness tending a flock for Jethro, his father-in-law. This may have seemed like a miserable place for Moses, but it was the location of a supernatural encounter with God. An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a burning bush that was not consumed by the flame. It was a strange sight, but God spoke to him from the bush and called him by name. Moses responded to God by saying, "Here I am."

Often in life, before we can discern which way to go, we must understand where we currently stand. Moses acknowledged his position by saying, "Here I am." We need to identify where we are in our faith journey. Then, we must recognize that God does not intend for us to remain in the wilderness but to progress in obedient faith. God summoned Moses out of the wilderness to confront his past and lead his people. Despite his fears and numerous excuses, Moses obeyed God's call. With God's presence, he returned to Egypt, faced Pharaoh, and liberated the Israelites from slavery.

Similar to Moses, we must move beyond our excuses and confront our fears. It has been said that "Fear is false evidence appearing real." The majority of our fears will never materialize. The most challenging step in advancing is often the first one. Like Moses, God is with us! Moses confronted his fears and followed God's call, despite his uncertainties. Take a step of faith today!

Action Step: Reflect on a fear that inhibits your progress. Write a prayer requesting boldness from God to confront it. Confront those fears with courageous faith and trust that God will be by your side.

Additional Scripture:

Exodus 6:1

Deuteronomy 34:10-12

Hebrews 11:24-27

NOTES

DAY 3

JOSHUA'S LEADERSHIP

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

Faith Thought: Courage is often contagious. Joshua's courage inspired a nation to take bold steps into the Promised Land. At this moment in Joshua's life, he was called by God to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land to possess it. This was no easy task, but it was the mission God had entrusted to Joshua. This assignment would require strength and courage, and Joshua had to overcome his own persistent fear. God said, "Do not be afraid..."

Joshua's leadership demanded a courage that could conquer fear. We have all grappled with fear at one time or another. Fear often immobilizes our progress, crushes our courage, and undermines our aspirations, but we must learn to nourish our faith and starve our fears. The voice of God in Joshua's life had to drown out the voice of fear. Which voice are we heeding? Are we listening to the voice of God or the voice of fear?

Fear tells us, "You can't do it," but God declares, "you can do all things through Christ who gives you strength." We must make a conscious effort to silence the voice of fear and attune our ears to the voice of God. Jesus said, "My sheep know my voice." We have the capacity to hear Jesus' voice, but we must disregard the voice of fear. Our choices in life are significantly influenced by the voices we listen to. Joshua advanced in faith and became one of the greatest leaders in the history of Israel. Similarly, we must opt for courage in the face of fear and heed and follow God's call.

Action Step: Identify a leader in your life or community. Offer them encouragement today through an email, handwritten note, or text message. We all benefit from encouragement in life.

Additional Scripture:

2 Timothy 1:7

Isaiah 41:10

Hebrews 11:6

NOTES

DAY 4

GIDEON'S TRUST

"The Lord turned to him and said, 'Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand.'"

Judges 6:14

Faith Thought: Gideon placed his trust in God's strength rather than his own weaknesses. We all have weaknesses that we must overcome. The truth is, we do not conquer our weaknesses by focusing on them. Instead, we overcome our weaknesses by daily placing our trust in God. Our focus should be entirely on God, not on our limitations. When we fixate on our weaknesses, we often lose sight of God's strength, leading to anxiety and worry.

Gideon did not view himself positively. He saw himself as insignificant and powerless, while God saw him as a mighty man of courage. God referred to him as a 'mighty warrior,' but Gideon perceived himself as weak and fearful. Although called to save Israel from the Midianites, he considered himself the least qualified. Gideon expressed, "How can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest, and I am the least in my family." It is evident that he lacked self-confidence.

Nevertheless, Gideon transitioned from powerlessness to empowerment by learning to trust in God. An old hymn encapsulates it beautifully: "Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey." Obedience is the evidence of trusting God. Gideon took a step of faith, obeyed God, and achieved victory over the Midianites. Today, choose to trust and obey!

Action Step: Instead of dwelling on your weaknesses, identify one strength you possess and contemplate how you can utilize it to serve others this week. Through serving, you will discover strength, and God's power will be revealed in your weaknesses.

Additional Scripture:

Jeremiah 29:11

John 14:1

2 Corinthians 12:9

DAY 5

DAVID'S BATTLE

"David said to the Philistine, 'You come against me with sword and spear, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty.'"

1 Samuel 17:45

Faith Thought: Life has its ups and downs. Living, at times, can be draining. Everyone faces various battles daily, some of which can be fierce and shake our confidence in God. King David, a prominent figure in the Old Testament, encountered numerous battles, including some that were self-inflicted. One of his most renowned battles was against Goliath on the battlefield.

David's faith empowered him to confront Goliath with unwavering confidence. This confidence did not stem from his own abilities or strength but from his belief in God's power to rescue him. On the battlefield, David declared, "You come against me with sword and spear, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty." David relied on the name of the Lord Almighty to triumph over the giant.

Where do we place our confidence? Is it in our skills, strength, and intellect, or do we place our trust in God to overcome life's battles? It is crucial to honestly ponder these questions and provide sincere responses. Like David, we should assert, "All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands." (1 Samuel 17:47)

Action Step: Identify a "giant" in your life and pray for the faith to confront it. Remember, what we are unwilling to confront will control our lives.

Additional Scripture:

Ephesians 6:10-18

Proverbs 18:10

Zechariah 4:6

NOTES

DAY 6

ESTHER'S COURAGE

"And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:14

Faith Thought: When we think of courageous faith, we often associate it with men. However, the Bible and history are filled with women who exemplified courage. One of these remarkable Biblical women was Esther, who was called by God to save her people from destruction.

Esther was willing to risk her life for the sake of her people, displaying bold faith. Faith can be spelled R.I.S.K. Esther's faith shone through her readiness to take risks, to sacrifice everything for God's call. What is God prompting you to do? Yes, there may be risks involved, but God is faithful to deliver us and lead us to victory.

In our current culture of political correctness, it requires courage to speak up. We cannot remain silent on issues that God has clearly addressed in Scripture. Esther demonstrated courage through her words spoken to the King. Mordecai warned her not to stay silent, stating, "Do not think that because you are in the king's house, you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish." (Esther 4:13-14) Esther bravely spoke up and achieved victory. Esther's courage serves as an inspiration for us to take risks today!

Action Step: Identify a situation where you can advocate for someone in need this week. Plan your approach, take a risk, and witness God's miraculous work.

Additional Scripture:

Esther 8:1-2

Psalm 92:12-15

Psalm 90:17

NOTES

DAY 7

DANIEL'S FRIENDS

“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied to him, 'King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.'”

Daniel 3:16-18 (NIV)

Faith Thought: Daniel's friends stood firm in their faith despite immense pressure. We all need friends who will stand with us during the toughest of times. Friends come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. It is essential to discern the depth of our friendships and manage them accordingly. Daniel's friends shared a common faith in the one true God, which was the bond that held their friendship together and helped them endure a severe test of faith.

Daniel was a man of character and integrity who chose friends with shared values. In life, it is crucial to cultivate friendships that uplift you rather than bring you down. Life-giving friendships have the ability to propel you toward God and His purpose for your life. Do you have friends who will accompany you through life's fiery trials? Daniel had such friends, and we can learn from their example.

Solomon once said, "A friend loves at all times." (Proverbs 17:17) When faced with trials and temptations, it is easier to stand firm and remain upright when supported by friends. Isolation is detrimental and gradually stifles our potential. Like Daniel, we must value, nurture, and honor friendships. Daniel's friends inspired him to take a stand against unrighteousness, and he remained faithful to God.

Action Step: Today, carefully assess your friendships. Are they the kind that encourage you to emulate Jesus and stand resolute in your faith? Identify a moral dilemma you are confronting and devise a plan to stand firm in your convictions.

Additional Scripture:

Ephesians 6:13

Proverbs 18:24

Proverbs 27:17

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

NOTES

DAY 8

PETER'S LEAP

"Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water, and came toward Jesus."

Matthew 14:29

Faith Thought: True faith is a manifestation of trust in God. James, the half-brother of Jesus, stated that "faith without works is dead." Peter, known for speaking up and occasionally putting his foot in his mouth, likely possessed natural courage and leadership qualities. When Jesus called him to be his disciple, Peter was a raw talent, yet Jesus recognized his great potential. Peter was the first to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, a revelation from God the Father affirmed by Jesus in Matthew 16.

During one incident, while traveling across the Sea of Galilee in a boat with the other disciples, Jesus appeared walking on the water, initially startling them. Peter, displaying faith amidst fear, asked Jesus to call him onto the water. Jesus granted permission, and Peter, demonstrating faith, stepped out of the boat. What leap of faith do you need to take in your life to exhibit trust in God?

Peter had to venture from the known into the unknown to walk on water. Many desire to be water-walkers but are hesitant to step out of their comfort zones, represented by the boat. Comfort zones are where dreams perish and faith is stifled. Like Peter, let us be willing to leave the security of the boat, step onto the water, and witness God perform miracles through our leap of faith.

Action Step: Jot down a bold step you must take in your life and commit to doing so this week. After identifying the courageous step, outline action steps that necessitate trusting God and advancing in faith.

Additional Scripture:

Hebrews 11:1

Hebrews 10:28-29

Mark 11:22-25

DAY 9

PAUL'S MISSION

"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me."

Acts 20:24 (NIV)

Faith Thought: Paul's dedication to Jesus' mission epitomized unwavering faith. His resolute faith was evident in his ability to persevere and fulfill the mission entrusted to him by the Lord Jesus. It is often easier to commence a project than to see it through to completion. January marks a time for new beginnings, but it necessitates courage and faith to see through what we have committed to initiate.

Paul's life's purpose was to be a finisher of the race. Throughout his journey, he faced numerous challenges that could have led him to give up. Despite enduring severe persecution and imprisonment while advancing the mission, he remained steadfast and continued to progress in faith despite setbacks.

Setbacks are inevitable in life. Life is unpredictable! Paul propelled the mission forward because he esteemed the mission above his life. He declared, "I consider my life worth nothing to me." Remarkably, to Paul, the mission held more value than his own life. This realization empowered Paul to accomplish remarkable work for God and complete the race. The mission fueled his courageous faith in God.

Action Step: Reflect on your life's purpose. Draft a mission statement that aligns with God's calling for you. Following the mission statement, take a step toward fulfilling that mission and witness God working alongside you as you advance.

Additional Scripture:

Romans 8:35-39

Romans 12:1

Galatians 2:20

NOTES

DAY 10

THE WIDOW'S OFFERING

"Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others."

Mark 12:43-44

Faith Thought: Giving is not a hard thing; it's a heart thing. As followers of Christ, we are often called to sacrificial giving. The small gift of the poor widow was a courageous act of faith. Hughes, a Bible commentator, once remarked, "Christian giving is measured not by quantity but by sacrifice." Jesus praised the poor widow, stating that 'she put more into the treasury than all the others.' While the wealthy gave out of their abundance, the poor widow gave out of her poverty, offering all that she had.

David Guzik stated, "In giving, the real issue isn't giving money. It is giving ourselves to the Lord. If we truly surrender ourselves to the Lord, then the right kind of material giving will naturally follow." When we first dedicate ourselves to the Lord, our generosity springs from a heart filled with love. Love serves as the primary motive behind all Christian endeavors, representing the essence of God's heart.

As followers of Christ, love should define our lives and attract others to seek the God of love. Giving without expectations embodies unconditional love. Today, let us excel in the grace of giving and embody a selfless life of sacrifice. The overflow of a loving heart is manifested in a generous spirit.

Action Step: Find a way to give, whether through time, resources, or encouragement, trusting God throughout the process. Ask God to empower you and help you excel in the grace of giving.

Additional Scripture:

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Luke 6:38; 21:1-4

Philippians 4:19

DAY 11

THE FAITH OF THE CENTURION

"When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, 'Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.'"

Matthew 8:10 (NIV)

Faith Thought: The centurion's faith and boldness in requesting Jesus' healing demonstrated deep trust. It also revealed that the centurion understood authority, being a man of authority himself. He confidently told Jesus, "Just say the word, and my servant will be healed." Like the centurion, can we trust God to bring healing to our bodies or those we care about? Healing is not reserved for the spiritually elite or a select few; it is available to all.

Jesus then instructed the centurion, "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would." And at that moment, his servant was healed (Matthew 8:13). Notice that the healing occurred according to the centurion's belief. What are you believing and entrusting God to do in your life? Our beliefs hold significant importance. Our perception of God's character is equally crucial. Jesus came not only to save us from sin but to provide us with an accurate understanding of God.

Our relationship with God is often shaped by our perception of Him. If our view of God is distorted, our connection with Him may be hindered. According to the writer of Hebrews, Jesus is the 'exact representation of the Father.' Therefore, seeing Jesus correctly enables us to see God accurately. God's nature is often misinterpreted because we do not view Him through the correct lens. Jesus, moved by compassion, healed the sick, revealing God's heart for healing and restoration. Today, strive to perceive God accurately and believe in His power to heal and restore.

Action Step: Begin to perceive God accurately by studying Jesus through daily readings of the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Then, identify someone in your circle who needs healing. Pray for them and offer words of encouragement.

Additional Scripture:

James 5:15-16

Mark 16:18

Psalms 103:1-5

NOTES

DAY 12

HANNAH'S PRAYER

"I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him."

1 Samuel 1:27

Faith Thought: Note the emphasis in this verse: "I prayed for this child." Hannah personally approached God in prayer. She didn't delegate the task to someone else but invested her own energy and time into earnestly praying for a child. Hannah's prayer was a bold display of faith, born out of desperation, as she fervently sought God's intervention.

In times of desperation, we often turn to God with unwavering faith. Hannah, facing barrenness and longing for a child, prayed with fervor. What are you desperately seeking from God? Has your desperation translated into fervent prayer? Prayer is an essential aspect of a believer's daily life, igniting the flame of faith within and moving the hand of God on our behalf.

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8) Jesus teaches us the importance of perseverance in prayer, demonstrating faith and patience in receiving God's promises. Remember, all we receive from God is by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). Our role is to trust entirely in what God has accomplished through Christ for our provision. Grace empowers us to persist in prayer until we witness the fulfillment of His promises. Hannah's unwavering prayer was answered, leading her to dedicate her son to God.

Action Step: Write down a specific prayer request and commit to praying for it daily over the next week, understanding that the answer will come by 'grace through faith'.

Additional Scripture:

Philippians 4:6-7

Matthew 6:5-8

Romans 8:26

NOTES

DAY 13

THE FAITH OF A BOLD WOMAN

"Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

Mark 7:28

Faith Thought: The boldness of the woman who sought healing for her daughter from Jesus exemplified great faith. Her initial bold step was to humble herself at the feet of Jesus, recognizing Him as the sole hope for her daughter's healing. Her daughter was suffering from demon possession, and in desperation, she approached Jesus, persistently pleading for her daughter's restoration.

Persistent faith requires boldness, a willingness to take risks. Despite Jesus initially resisting her request, the woman refused to be deterred and continued to fervently ask for her daughter's healing. She demonstrated boldness in the face of potential rejection and public shame as she pursued Jesus. Her bold faith was ultimately rewarded when Jesus declared, "you may go; the demon has left your daughter." Upon returning home, she found her daughter healed, the demon gone.

What are you believing God to do for your family? Do not lose faith! Persist in prayer and boldly continue to seek Jesus, trusting that He will answer your prayers. Like this woman, your unwavering faith will be met with reward. Hebrews 11:6 states, "And without faith, it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." Today, seek God with persistence and anticipate the reward for your faith.

Action Step: Identify a need that necessitates bold prayer. Present it to God without hesitation and maintain your belief that the reward is forthcoming.

Additional Scripture:

Joshua 1:9

Proverbs 28:1

Ephesians 6:19

Acts 4:31

DAY 14

THE SAMARITAN'S KINDNESS

"He went to him and bandaged his wounds,
pouring on oil and wine."

Luke 10:34

Faith Thought: The Good Samaritan demonstrated bold compassion by aiding someone in need, defying societal norms. Samaritans during Jesus' time were often marginalized and despised by the Jews. However, Jesus, in John 4, initiated reconciliation between different ethnic groups by engaging with a Samaritan woman at a well.

In Luke 10, Jesus elevates a Samaritan as the hero of the narrative, a radical portrayal in that era. Despite the prevailing prejudices, Jesus tells the story of a compassionate Samaritan stranger who stopped to assist someone in distress. While the religious priest and Levite walked past the wounded man, the Samaritan demonstrated kindness and provided aid.

When Jesus posed the question, "Who is my neighbor?" the answer emphasized that everyone is our neighbor, irrespective of ethnicity. Our kindness towards all individuals reflects the compassionate nature of Jesus to the world. Kindness is exemplified through our willingness to show consideration, generosity, and friendliness to those different from us. It embodies the essence of Jesus. Following Jesus transcends mere church attendance; it entails embodying His character and extending His nature to others.

Action Step: Seek an opportunity this week to extend kindness to someone unexpected. Demonstrate the kindness of Jesus in a generous and tangible manner.

Additional Scripture:

Ephesians 4:32

Galatians 5:22-23

Colossians 3:12-13

NOTES

DAY 15

THE EARLY CHURCH'S BOLDNESS

"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."

Acts 4:31

Faith Thought: The early church exemplified boldness in their witness and faith. Their faith was exercised through prevailing prayer. Prayer is a powerful weapon that must be utilized to advance God's kingdom on earth. Failing to pray is akin to planning to fail. The early Christian church engaged in daily and effective prayer, leading to Spirit-empowered action.

Following their prayer, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. Boldness is a direct outcome of being filled with the Holy Spirit. Continually being filled with the Holy Spirit is emphasized in Ephesians 5:18. It is an ongoing experience as we abide in Jesus. Jesus taught, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you abide in me, you will bear much fruit." The key to being a bold and effective witness lies in abiding in Jesus.

Apart from Jesus, our efforts are futile. He is the source of life that empowers us to move forward with boldness. Paul acknowledged, "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Recognizing that Christ is the source of vitality, Paul understood the essence of a dynamic life. Through prayer, being filled with the Holy Spirit, and allowing God to speak through us boldly, we can proclaim the message of Jesus effectively.

Action Step: This week, share your faith story with someone, whether in conversation or on social media. Subsequently, invite others to encounter Jesus and experience forgiveness. Be bold, knowing that you can do all things through Christ.

Additional Scripture:

Ephesians 3:20

Acts 2:37-41

Acts 1:8

NOTES

DAY 16

LYDIA'S HOSPITALITY

"When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home."

Acts 16:15

Faith Thought: Lydia demonstrated boldness by extending hospitality to Paul and others. Hailing from Thyatira, she is recognized as the first convert to Christianity in Europe and often referred to as St. Lydia. As a dealer in purple cloth, she embraced Christianity after hearing Paul's preaching, and subsequently opened her home to Paul and Silas.

Lydia's act of opening her home exemplified bold hospitality. Her willingness to welcome them was a reflection of her heart being touched by the gospel of Jesus. Acts 16:14 states, "The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message." Can the Lord utilize our hospitality to open the hearts of those who feel at ease in our presence? Absolutely! As followers of Jesus, we are called to extend hospitality to both fellow believers and strangers alike.

1 Peter 4:8-9 emphasizes, "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." Bold hospitality emanates from a heart transformed by God's grace and rooted in love. Our hospitality serves as a reflection of God's heart to those seeking Him. Through hospitality and love, we embody the hands and feet of Jesus in our world. Let us, like Lydia, excel in showing hospitality to all.

Action Step: This week, invite someone over for a meal or coffee to nurture deeper relationships. Witness how hospitality can transform hearts, both ours and those of others.

Additional Scripture:

Acts 16:33-34

Leviticus 19:33-34

Luke 14:12-14

NOTES

DAY 17

THE THIEF ON THE CROSS

"Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'"

Luke 23:42

Faith Thought: The cross symbolizes our relationship with God and others. Its vertical beam signifies our connection with God, while the horizontal beam represents our relationships with others. Living boldly for Christ entails embodying a crucified life, continually dwelling within the relational connection with God and others.

In his final moments, the thief on the cross took a courageous step of faith, acknowledging Jesus as Lord. It was in that instant that his life was profoundly transformed by the crucified Christ hanging beside him. This was no ordinary act for a thief; it was a bold leap of faith to believe that Jesus would forgive his sins and welcome him into God's kingdom. As a sinner reaching out to the sinless, he became a saint ushered into God's presence for eternity.

Like the thief, perhaps we need to humbly say, "remember me when you come into your kingdom." This declaration reflects a posture of humility, acknowledging that our salvation is solely by God's grace, not by our own merits. Salvation extends beyond attaining heaven; it entails a continuous transformation through God's grace. We are saved, being saved, and will ultimately be saved when we are resurrected with Christ. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV)

Action Step: Identify someone in your life who needs to hear about Jesus. Pray for them and seize an opportunity to share the gospel.

Additional Scripture:

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Ephesians 2:8-10

Romans 10:9-11

DAY 18

SOLOMON'S WISDOM

"Give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong."

1 Kings 3:9

Faith Thought: It has been said that "assumption is the lowest form of knowledge." In our fast-changing world inundated with information and rapid internet connectivity, knowledge abounds. However, wisdom surpasses mere knowledge as it involves the application of knowledge.

Solomon's request for wisdom exemplified boldness in ruling wisely. For Solomon, wisdom meant having a discerning heart to differentiate between right and wrong. Recognizing truth and avoiding deception is increasingly challenging; therefore, seeking discernment is crucial. Jesus forewarned about deception in the last days, emphasizing that many would be misled (Matthew 24). How can we safeguard ourselves against deception?

Guarding against deception necessitates knowing the truth. Jesus declared, "you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Jesus embodies the truth! Establishing a personal relationship with Jesus is key to safeguarding our hearts from deception. This involves knowing God through His Word, the Bible. By knowing the authentic, we can readily identify the counterfeit. Additionally, the Holy Spirit, God with us, serves as the Spirit of truth who guides us into all truth. In an era of deception, the Holy Spirit provides discernment.

Action Step: Seek God for wisdom in a decision you are currently facing. Write down your thoughts, pray for clarity, and allow the Holy Spirit, who delights in leading us on paths of righteousness, to guide you.

Additional Scripture:

Proverbs 2:6

Proverbs 4:7

Proverbs 19:8

NOTES

DAY 19

NEHEMIAH'S VISION

"I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, 'Let us start rebuilding.'"

Nehemiah 2:18

Faith Thought: Nehemiah was one of the greatest leaders in Biblical history. He was a reformer and a practical leader. He discovered that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and the city gates had been burned. This left the Israelites open to the attacks of their enemies. When he made this discovery, he sat down and wept, knelt down and prayed, and then stood up and began a great work.

With permission and resources granted to him by the king, he went to Jerusalem to inspect the situation. After close inspection, Nehemiah boldly inspired others to take action and join him to rebuild Jerusalem. It was at this moment that Nehemiah used God's vision for his life to make a difference. Someone once said, "vision is a clear mental image of a preferable future." However, Nehemiah's vision was the very thing that attracted opposition. But, he did not stop boldly moving forward with doing the great work God had called him to carry out. With a weapon in one hand, Nehemiah and the people continued to work.

Opposition will always come when you begin a great work for God. Like Nehemiah, don't stop! Keep building and keep fighting the good fight of faith. In the end, your bold faith will be rewarded and you will complete the assignment God has for your life. Remember, 'the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

Action Step: Identify a project or cause you feel passionate about and take a step to get involved. It takes boldness to take a step of faith.

Additional Scripture:

Nehemiah 6:16

Proverbs 29:18

Habakkuk 2:2-3

NOTES

DAY 20

THE APOSTLE JOHN'S FAITH

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."

1 John 5:14

Faith Thought: Unwavering faith in God is not built in a moment but through a continual relationship, with the foundation being the Word of God. Romans 10:17 says, "faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is through the word of Christ." John's faith was ignited when he first heard Jesus say, "Come follow me!" It was at that moment John became a disciple of Christ and took a journey of faith that would not only revolutionize his life but also the world.

Our faith is inspired by John's faith. His faith encouraged believers to approach God with boldness. Sometimes we are timid when it comes to asking God for big things! However, it takes no more faith to believe God for big things than it does to believe God for small things. Bishop Tony Miller once said, "Give God a thimble and he will fill it. Give God a sixty-five-gallon drum and he will fill it. Do you have thimble faith or sixty-five-gallon drum faith?"

God is our Heavenly Father and delights in blessing his children. We don't have to be timid when we approach him. Rather, we can be confident that he loves us and desires to answer us when we pray. Choose to pray big prayers and then continue to persevere in faith until you see the answer.

Action Step: Write down a bold prayer request and share it with a trusted friend for accountability. Then, continue to trust God for the answer.

Additional Scripture:

Hebrews 4:14-16

Ephesians 3:16-17

2 Corinthians 5:7

NOTES

DAY 21

THE GREAT COMMISSION

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

Faith Thought: The 'Great Commission' is not the Great Suggestion! In the original language, it's not a suggestion but a command given to the original twelve disciples and to all Christ followers. Jesus commissioned us to take bold steps in spreading the gospel. The 'Great Commission' is designed to get us out of our comfort zones and rely on the Holy Spirit for power to be a witness in the world.

Jesus said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be mighty witnesses." To be a witness for Jesus requires being with Jesus. We must be with Jesus to be empowered to carry out the Great Commission. Bearing fruit is a byproduct of remaining in Jesus who is the 'true vine'. Jesus said, "apart from me you can do nothing."

We must be radically and totally dependent upon Jesus. He is the 'author and finisher of our faith'. 'Go and make disciples' is the daily business of every believer. When Jesus promised that he would surely be with us. Remember, you are not alone when you are sharing the good news. Jesus is with you and speaking through you!

Action Step: Make a plan for how you can actively share your faith in your community in the coming weeks. Pray for open doors and open hearts. Then, step into the opportunity when it is presented.

Additional Scripture:

Isaiah 6:8

Mark 16:15

John 15:16

NOTES

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS!

JOSHUA 1:19



Archie Callahan is the Founding Lead Pastor of Bridge Church, a vibrant and diverse community rooted in Spirit-led worship. Since marrying his wonderful wife Tangie in 1995, Archie has dedicated his life to ministry, establishing Bridge Church in Virginia Beach in 1998. Under his leadership, the church has grown into a dynamic multi-site organization with

three campuses, focused on expanding God's kingdom through campus planting, new church initiatives, and empowering leaders.

Archie holds a Doctorate in Theology and Ministry from Northwind Seminary, along with a Master's Degree in Christian Leadership from Southwestern Christian University. The main campus of Bridge Church sprawls over 28 acres in the courthouse area of Virginia Beach, where the mission is clear: to 'connect all people to the person, power, and purpose of Jesus.' For more information about Archie or Bridge Church, visit www.bridgechurch.tv