

COURAGE

(θαρροῦντας / θαρρήσαι)

To be of good courage, to be confident, to show courage.

“I implore you now to be of good courage with confidence” (2 Corinthians 10:2). So many people are always worried about what may go wrong. Beloved, this attitude prevails when you don’t have revelation of the truth that **God is with you**. However, don’t be concerned for this is common with most of us. In 1 Chronicles 28:20 David said to Solomon his son, *“Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you...”*

Deuteronomy 31:6 declares, *“Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.”* It’s interesting that “strength” precedes “courage.” But it makes perfect sense, because how can we be courageous if we are weak? Therefore, before attempting to exercise courage we must first get strong, and the way to get strong is to know that God is with us. In Isaiah 41:10 the Lord says, *“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”*

Former President Reagan announced to the nation that at the age of 83 that he had been diagnosed with having Alzheimer’s disease - an irreversible disease that will take everything from him. He could have kept it quiet, but he wanted to help other people. What can we learn from him? Four things:

1. To be brave in the face of danger.
2. To be steadfast in the face of opposition.
3. To take action in the face of resistance.
4. To be optimistic in the face of despair.

The first one says I won’t be afraid. The second one says I won’t give up. The third one says I won’t be intimidated. The fourth one says I won’t lose heart.

Whenever we hear of someone like President Reagan, who has demonstrated courage in his or her life, I’m sure it exhilarates us. We find ourselves thinking, “That’s what I want to be like, I’d love to have more of that kind of courage. I don’t want to live life paralyzed by fear, I don’t want to be handcuffed by anxiety. I don’t want to cave in under bad circumstances. I want to be strong and courageous.” The truth is... Do you know who the real heroes are? Who the giants of courage are? I think it is those ordinary people who face the everyday challenges of life. When you stop and think about it, courage is a greater challenge in the little things than in the major battles. Every single day we make choices that show us to be fearful or to be courageous. When we get into the habit of being strong and courageous in our everyday lives (one day at a time), then when the bigger challenges arrive we will be “battle ready.” So remember, sometimes the biggest act of courage is a small one.