

The Gifts of God

His Mighty Courage

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It is the God-given ability, to confront the hardships and difficulties of life; they include: grief, pain, danger, evil, illness, disability, suffering, death, natural disaster, intimidation, oppression and persecution - for you, or someone else. Other words that might help you to better appreciate it's special meaning are - **Strength, backbone, fortitude, empowering, determination and heartening.**

There are many ways one can describe this formidable virtue of God, they are: lion-hearted, greatly encouraging, gloriously emboldening, spiritually fortifying, divinely uplifting, powerfully enabling, wonderfully supportive, heart sustaining, confidence-boosting, character-building, soul strengthening and evil defeating!

From out of the Heart of God, comes this glorious virtue, to all that need it!

When we talk of someone getting **Courage**, we are talking about **'the heart'** of the person being **'uplifted and emboldened'**, by this powerful virtue of God.

Now, when we talk about **'the heart'** of the person, we are not talking about the physical heart, (that beats faithfully inside our chests everyday, to keep us alive); No, we are talking about what we all have - **our spiritual heart**; the part of us that makes us unique and identifiable, in the sight of God; that makes us, us: our personality, our character, our very nature - who we are, what we've done, what we're doing and where we're going; whether we have been saved, by the Grace of God, and where we ultimately stand, in the eyes of our glorious Maker!

Across the world, there is not a day that goes by, where this great virtue isn't being called upon - to give **strength, determination and heartening**, to those enduring the hardships of life. For us, it is the one important ability we need, when going through adversity - it lifts us, it supports us, it empowers us, and gives us the strength and will to go on, even without light at the end of the tunnel.

In our darkest moments, when everything is closing in, and our demise almost certain, we turn to 'our beloved', and with tears in our eyes we cry out to Him, desiring His wonderful arms to embrace us, and give us comfort - His powerful virtue then comes alive inside us, and burns brightly, empowering us greatly!

How glorious is He, for giving us a part of Himself, through this mighty virtue!

A wonderful bible passage comes to mind, when we think of God's comforting spirit - **Psalms 23**. It means a lot of things to a lot of people - but for many, it has always been a source of great comfort and strength, when they needed it in life.

For as long as they can remember, **this powerful passage** from the Word of God, has helped them greatly, to get through the very worst, that life can throw at them!

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

*2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the
paths of righteousness, for his name's sake.*

*4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

*5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

*6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

From our bible, God's comforting spirit comes alive, and strengthens our soul!

Remember, God wants us to depend on Him, in both good and bad times; and like David, have a close, loving and fulfilling relationship, with our glorious Maker!

Sadly, we have a tendency to call on God only when we need Him (in bad times); like the sign says above the fire alarm - 'Break glass only in case of emergency'.

This is not how it should be, my friends! Our personal relationship with God, should be 'the most important thing in our lives' - because it is more precious than gold, silver, or costly stones, more valuable than anything else on earth!

Unfortunately for us, it can be easy, to become complacent, lazy and lukewarm, in our personal relationship with the Almighty, and start taking Him for granted.

We must be on guard, and never allow this to happen; our relationship with God, must be absolutely paramount - more important than anything else in our hearts!

So the message is - we must learn to depend on God all the time, 'in the good times and the bad times', because He sustains us every day! We must learn to treasure our relationship with God, like David did - very very highly indeed!

Like all God's gifts, **Courage** has been made freely available, to all who need it. Of the children of God, both believers and non-believers alike, have access to it.

When you receive it, you will feel it growing inside you; you will find that the strength you didn't have before, is suddenly there, powerful and indestructible; especially when you are fighting evil, oppression or persecution. Be joyful in your hearts, for He has given you, His powerful virtue of **Courage**. He wants you to be victorious! He wants you to overcome all that seek your destruction! He wants you to come out on top, and be triumphant over the forces of darkness! He wants you to go through adversity and come out the other side - **a winner!**

Be glad in your hearts, for now evil will flee from you, because of your **Courage!**

Did you know that when you share it with others, it becomes **encouragement!**

That's the great thing about **Courage** - you can use it yourself, or share it freely with others (who need it), by giving **words of encouragement** - it's that easy!

It's God's way of making sure we come out on top, and be triumphant in life!

Courage is staring evil in the face, and being victorious; **Courage** is facing the hardships and difficulties of life - with composure, strength and determination; **Courage** is the power God gives us, during times of great distress, pain or death; **Courage** is that, which comes to us at just the right moment; it revives us, and helps us greatly; to use an old analogy - it is **'Popeye's spinach'** for the heart!

It allow us to be bold and take risks; to make sacrifices for the cause of good; to go through trials, tribulation and difficulty, all for the cause of righteousness, for example: to say and do what is right, in the sight of God; to tell the truth, no matter what the consequences; to speak up on someone else's behalf; to stand up and be counted, for what you believe in; these are examples of **Courage**.

Without His great virtue of strength inside us, we would be overtaken and swept away, by the forces of evil in this world (both seen and unseen), that are seeking our destruction, our capitulation, our surrender; but because of the great love 'our beloved' has for us, He made sure that we have access, to His mighty virtue.

Sometimes, these hardships can take years to go through, and along the way affect us so personally; all the while, you are asking yourself - **when will it end?**

Sometimes the tears flow, when we reminisce of simpler times (in our youth), when we were free and clear, of such horrible and uncomfortable experiences, that people everywhere, are having to go through on a daily basis, on their own.

In our most difficult times, we sometimes even begin to doubt ourselves, and our ability to get through these terrible periods in our lives; but in the end, God has given us this powerful virtue, so we can have strength, in the face of adversity.

After surviving them (very often on your own) you wonder - **How on earth did I ever manage that, without giving up and throwing in the towel?** Well, you did it with **Courage!** Yes, it's true - all your hard-fought victories that you've had in life, have been made possible, because of this great virtue, He has given you!

They have been hard-fought, every single one of them; you have well and truly earned these victories, with 'blood, sweat and tears', you have gone through the fire, and come out the other side victorious, because of God's wonderful virtue!

When it comes to hardships, we very often don't have a choice; they will come into our lives whether we like it or not, to cause grief, distress and heartache; and there is nothing we can do to stop them, but to endure them with **Courage**.

They can be very hard to go through, well outside our personal comfort zones, testing our resolve to the very extreme; often we grow weary of them and their impact on our lives, sometimes we feel as though we are close to cracking, but because we possess His great virtue inside us, we will always come out on top!

They can vary from smaller personal events, that affect just us and our families; car accidents, illnesses, financial woes, deaths, marriage break-ups, job losses (just to name a few), through to much larger weather or environmental events; floods, earthquakes, snow storms, hurricanes, landslides, tornadoes, fire storms, droughts and tsunamis, that can seriously affect large numbers of people, across many states or countries, leaving complete devastation and misery in it's wake.

Sometimes, we have hardships in life, that we choose to go through (very often at great personal risk), because it is the right thing to do - to speak up on someone else's behalf (for those who don't have a voice); or those that are too scared to speak out, for fear of retribution and retaliation); for example - our poor unborn children, who are being killed every day, through abortion; or the oppressed, downtrodden and persecuted of the earth, who are too frightened or intimidated to speak up, against the terrible injustices that are occurring in their country every day; who are forever being exploited, for their gender, property or possessions.

These are situations that come before us in life, where we just have to stand up, and do the right thing in the sight of God; this requires a special type of **Courage**, it is called **'Righteous Indignation'**, it is where you choose to take on something that 'you know (in your heart) is wrong'; it doesn't matter who it is, or how big they are (that are behind it); you know, it must be corrected - God requires it!

Like David taking on the mighty Goliath; he heard him openly defying the armies of the living God, with his loud boasting - in other words, he was defying God!

In his heart, David knew that he had to go down and meet Goliath head on; with **Righteous Indignation**, he went to meet him; it didn't matter how big Goliath was, or how small David was - he was always going to be victorious, for God!

Ponder these powerful verses from the book of Psalms; they are filled with God's comforting spirit - let them lift you, and give you **Courage**; let them comfort your soul; and gain strength from the Heart of God, through the Word of God!

Psalm 18:2

*The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;
my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler,
and the horn of salvation, and my high tower.*

Psalm 31:24

*Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart,
all ye that hope in the Lord.*

Psalm 37:40

*And the Lord shall help them, and deliver them:
he shall deliver them from the wicked,
and save them, because they trust in him.*

Psalm 91:7

*A thousand shall fall at thy side,
and ten thousand at thy right hand;
but it shall not come nigh thee.*

Psalm 103:11

*For as the heaven is high above the earth,
so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.*

Psalm 138:7

*Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth
thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies,
and thy right hand shall save me.*

Psalm 143:8

*Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning;
for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way
wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.*

Keep these words in your heart, and know that you are in God's mighty hands!

The greatest example of this wonderful virtue, is the **Courage** that Jesus showed, when He came down 'of His own free will' (from His mighty place in eternity), so 'He could take our place on the cross', and be brutally and savagely put to death 'for our sins', so we could be saved by God's grace, and returned to Him.

What mighty **Courage** He had, to voluntarily go down this path, and take on 'the sins of the world' on Himself, and be crucified, in one of the most barbaric and torturous methods of personal execution ever devised, by the hearts of men!

He knew (in great detail) what was to come, on this path He had chosen to take; a path that when completed, would bring us back into God's loving presence; a path of great sacrifice and humility, a path of indescribable pain and suffering; a path that defeats the powers of darkness, for all time; a path filled with wonderful rewards and benefits, for all His loved ones - those who have learned to make Him their personal treasure, and put Him in the **Number One spot**, in their hearts!

Only after enduring the hardships and difficulties of life ourselves, do we finally understand and appreciate, the purpose of God's great virtue, called **Courage**.

Lift up your eyes unto Heaven and give thanks, for this powerful virtue of His.

Remember, with Christ as your strength, **nothing of this earth can defeat you!**

In the name of Jesus / Yeshua (His hebrew name),

God bless