

What is “Cold Blooded” Courage

And why we need it today

1. What is Courage?

Courage is not the absence of fear.

Dictionary definition: *“That quality of mind which enables men and women to encounter danger and difficulties with firmness”*
(webstersdictionary1828.com)

Synonyms: *Bravery, valor, boldness, and resolution in the midst of fear and/or danger. It is also strength in the face of pain or grief.*

2. Let’s talk about two different kinds of courage

- **“Red-hot courage”** – Like the courage to run into a burning building to save someone.
 - Done in a moment of crisis
 - More of a response than a thought-out choice
 - Afterwards people are self-effacing/honestly surprised
- **“Cold-Blooded Courage”** – The courage to act steadfastly in a situation for a greater good with full knowledge of the potential risks and dangers.

3. Some contemporary examples of Cold-Blooded Courage:

- **Sophie Scholl** – Anti-Nazi activist
- **Rosa Parks** - *“I have learned over the years that when one’s mind is made up, this diminishes fear, knowing what must be done, does away with fear”*
- The **NYC police and firefighters** on 9/11

4. Examples from Scripture

Esther – *“I will go to the king, which is against the law, and if I perish, I perish”* (Esther 4:16). (Resolve!)

Daniel – Kept praying three times a day to the Lord even when doing so meant being thrown to the lions.

Joshua - God’s word to Joshua when he was commissioned to lead God’s people into the fight for the Promised Land was, *“Be strong and very courageous...do not be afraid, nor dismayed for the Lord your God*

is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:7 & 9).

David – *“The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”*

(1 Samuel 17:37a)

Apostle Paul - I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, **whether by life or by death.**

(Philippians 1:20)

5. Where does courage like this come from?

- A.** It comes from a relationship with God that is consistently built on a strong personal prayer life.
- B.** It comes from the Word of God that builds our faith and confidence in His faithful, unchanging love and character.
- C.** It comes as we make pre-crisis resolutions to be faithful in our witness as we make up our mind to do His will no matter what.
- D.** It comes from a confidence and trust in the Lord imparts to us through His indwelling Holy Spirit.
- E.** It comes from knowing our life is eternally secure in Christ.

In **Esther’s** case, fasting was key. With **Daniel**, prayer was at the center of what they did. **Joshua** new received God’s direct guarantee that God was always with him. **David** relied on all God had taught him. **Paul** rested in the assurance that his eternity was settled and assured.

6. Christ’s Courage Challenge:

In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; (Why?) I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 (NASB)

“The Western World has lost its courage” (americanrhetoric.com).

These were the words spoken by Alexander Solzhenitsyn, a celebrated Russian dissident, poet, and Nobel Prize novelist. He spoke those words in a commencement speech in 1978 at Harvard University, which according to Eric Metaxas, *“turned out to be, in the opinion of many, one of the greatest speeches of the twentieth century”* (Metaxas, 2020).

Those words “lost its courage” strike a chord in me. **Have we, as individuals, as a church, and as a nation, lost our courage? That is a question all of us have to answer.**