

Coward or Courageous? “Choosing Faith over Fear”

All of our lives we are challenged to make choices between being a coward or being courageous. I remember as an adolescence how I would have to muster up the courage to face up to challenges that tried my confidence in my abilities or to overcome the threat of someone who was jealous or themselves seeking to prove how courageous they were by intimidating someone else. In elementary school I ran anchor on the girl's track team. There would be competitions when some girl anchor was bigger than I or at the least wanted to intimate me into believing she was faster. I had to make very conscious decisions that the goal in mind was more important than the opposing circumstances. It was an intentional inner discipline that the competition of sports forced me to develop if I was to win the prize for our team. It is the same way with forcing courage. We must face our inner fears and resist the energy to coward down to the enemy who seeks to steal our prize, which is our faith in God for overcoming and winning the war. The devil cannot take our faith we have to surrender it. The fight is deciding which you will yield to and ho you want to be. This pull between the two must be addressed and you must choose which will reign.

The tension between being cowardly faithful and learning to push into courage though you fear is absolutely necessary to the lifework of growing your faith. Though there are times when you may feel unfaithful because of the emotions of fear, but simply put do it anyway, whatever it is that aligns with God's will and your passion for an empowered life in righteousness, do it anyway in spite of fear. The most powerful act of faith is to walk it out though you fear or have question. This very act is an expression of your faith and forces the feelings of fear into acts of faith. When we coward to fear, we are actually empowering the fear to grow stronger. Being a coward is a choice to surrender to an emotion that is usually the illusion of impending danger. Cowardly behavior is captivity. It is a consistent practice of surrender to fear to the point you cower to its torments and allow it to freeze your forward movement. This behavior allows the adversary of your soul to imprisons your confidence in God and rob your relevance in the Kingdom of God. Choosing to take on strength by stepping out of fear into action for you and God leads to a deepened revelation of the power of faith and how it will conquer fear and free one from being a spiritual coward. It is all intentional, a deliberate determination to not be bound by an emotion, but to trust God in spite of the emotions that attempt to hinder you from walking out your faith. This is done on a daily basis and though impending situations arise that challenge your faith, choose faith and walk it out. *“Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear.” Mark Twain*

As a believers, we are to master our fears by activating our faith in the Word of God and leaning into our relationship with God. Too many of God's people live beneath their privileges and live as spiritual cowards because they are afraid to confront their fears. The fruit of being courageous is simply doing what you fear or to overcome what seems to be an obstacle because of fear. Faith that is responsible to the Word of God believe that relationship with God supersedes anything that challenges your life and that through this relationship you have the power and back up in God to be victorious even over behaviors that surface your fears. Continuing in fear patterns of thinking and living will stop you in your tracks from doing God's will. This is a forceful weapon of Satan to keep you from fulfilling your life work. Knowing his tactic should motivate each of us to push past the captivity of fear. Surrendering to fear results in the fatigue of torment. The adversary will use it to keep you from becoming in God your best self and from doing exploits in the Spirit of God. This intentional work of becoming in God demands courage to face our fears and to overcome them. However, it is a choice, an intentional fortitude to press beyond your norm and look straight in the face of possibilities by faith and walk right into your destiny. Don't let the devil or fear cheat you out of who you were born to become. The choice is yours!