

FINDING YOUR COURAGE

Deuteronomy 31:8 ... “And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, he will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.”

Some people look for courage in booze or drugs. Some seek it behind the doors or curtains of their homes. You may feel more courage when you see police patrolling your town. Perhaps you feel greater courage when government officials – who live far away from you – say, “Don’t worry.” And, some people look for courage by switching religions; Christians around the world are dying right now for their faith, but many others have turned their backs on God and sworn allegiance to false religions in their quest for courage and peace. As persecution increases and the enemies of God filter into your community, the only reliable source of courage is God.

Any courage you invent yourself will not stand the test of time or the pressures that come against you. What matters is not how you die, but why you die. If you die because you proclaim your faith in God and your love and allegiance to Jesus Christ, you will be ushered into his presence and rewarded for your faith and devotion to him. If you die denying Christ, you will face a very different and miserable future.

It is your choice to allow God to fill you with courage and peace of mind, or not. Many panic when they see their neighbors fleeing. But, fleeing in fear merely increases their anxiety. Read today’s verse carefully. It does not say that God will spare you from attack, nor that God will destroy your enemies before your eyes. God has the option of doing that, but the promise in verse 8 is that God will go before you as you stand for him; he will be alongside you as you face your enemies; he will not leave you when the attacks come.

You may read this in your home in the city where police are actively patrolling and giving you some measure of confidence. Or, you may be reading this in a part of the province where the police are nowhere to be seen and you hear gunfire. Our hope is not in what we see, but in the presence of the One who created us. Only He can ease your fear and stand with you through the storm. Your solution is to embrace God who promises to stand with you no matter what happens. When facing your enemy, you have a choice to make: 1) Switch sides and join your enemy (and lose your soul), 2) run in fear until you are too tired and they harm you anyway, or 3) stand firm with God at your side, enjoying his courage and peace. You may think this is impossible, however some readers of this, including myself, have had to face our fears and our enemies before and we can testify that God faced them with us, giving us the courage and perseverance to stand as bold witnesses to God’s grace and love.

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