

Our Cave of Courage

Discovering Who We Really Are

"Elijah was afraid and ran for his life..."He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die...**There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him:**
"What are you doing here, Elijah?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too...**Then a voice said to him,**
"What are you doing here, Elijah?" I Kings 19:1-10; 13

I. Introduction

"Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage."---Anais Nin

"Insit home and think about it. Go out aaction breeds doubt and fear. Action breeds confidence and courage. If you want to conquer fear, do not nd get busy."---Dale Carnegie

II. Biblical Insights on Courage

1. The fearless know _____ and will do _____ "He will flatter those who hate the things of God and win them over to his side...**but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.**" Daniel 11:32

"The wicked flee when no one is chasing them! But the godly are bold as lions!" Proverbs 28:1

Courage in life is always connected to knowing who God is for yourself!

2. Remember that the Lord is your _____—not your _____

*"The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind...but the LORD was not in the wind. Then came an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. Then came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a still, small voice (a gentle whisper)...**Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"**" I Kings 19:11-13*

- We can blame God for things that He had nothing to do with
- God will never lead us by wickedness, evil or temptation. He will use His Word, His Spirit (*with the still, small voice*), His leaders, or certain Divinely arranged circumstances
- Decide today to claim a new life by fighting battles within, not without.

3. Be sure you have a proper perspective as to where _____ "Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us new birth through the word of truth that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created." James 1:16-17

Where do bad things come from?

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✓



4. No matter what we face, or what the enemy whispers to us, _____ *"Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. **Everything is possible with God.**" Mark 10:27 (NLT)*

"Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper." I Chron.20:20

5. No matter what we feel or how the enemy tries to lie to us, _____ *"Yes, be bold and strong! **Banish fear and doubt!** For remember, **the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**" Joshua 1:9 (LB)*

*"You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!" **Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you.**" II Chronicles 20:17*

Timeless Truths of Courage

Courage rises when the cause is greater than one's fears and it falls when the fears are greater than one's cause.

With courage, you will rise to your highest purpose. Without courage, you will inevitably sink to the depth of your greatest problem.

Our flesh will always encourage us to live in the "comfort zone" of life, but the Lord demands that His people live in the "courageous zone."

It is only in our inescapable cave of courage where we come face to face with who we really are---not who we thought we were!

"Of all the liars in the world, sometimes the worst are our own fears."— Rudyard Kipling

"Do the thing you fear and the death of fear is certain."— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Answer Key:

1. who God is-----exploits
2. answer---problem
3. bad things come from
4. God is able
5. God is with us