

# MORF Faith & Faith

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## COURAGE

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Jeff Loewen Ministries



## *Hi Partners and Friends*

*We are excited about what the Lord is doing in our lives. He has brought a building into our hands to use for the church and our first service is the first Sunday of July.*

*We thank God for open doors for each of us - we declare the Glory of God is here and this is our year of visitations, manifestations and demonstrations of His power, presence and goodness.*

*I just finished a series on SEEKING the Lord. One of the keys is from Deut 4:29 that says we are to seek Him with all our heart. The heart of seeking is intimacy and fellowship with God. As we seek and draw near to Him he said in His Word the He will hear us, forgive us, heal our land. Add things to us and make us who He made us to be because He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

*I challenge you to make some extra time throughout this summer season to seek Him and enjoy your best summer yet.*

*We love you & God Bless*  
*Jeff & Audrey*



**Jeff Loewen  
Ministries**

Proclaiming the Word of Faith unto Soteria - Rom. 10:8-13

# COURAGE COMBATING DISCOURAGEMENT

When God told Abram to leave behind everything that was familiar to him and follow Him, it took courage to go. When he was told to arise and walk throughout the land and God would give it to him, it took courage to believe. When his brother's son was captured by enemy kings it took courage to arm his staff and attack.

When a national hero came home from battle and his house was gone along with his wife and children, grief flooded his soul. All his men also experienced the same loss but out of grief lashed out at him and talked about killing him since he took them away from their homes on business. Yet the bible tells us in 1 Sam 30:1-8 that David encouraged himself in the Lord and received instruction to pursue the enemy. So they did and they overtook them and recovered all. It took courage to get back up and then to pursue what was theirs.

When Jesus was walking by the blind son of Timaeus it took courage to raise his voice after he had been told to be quiet. It took courage to obtain the sight he wanted - his covenant right as a child of Abraham.

It will take courage for us to obtain our new covenant rights in Christ also. All the good things that Jesus bought and purchased for us through His death, burial and resurrection - forgiveness, the new birth, healing and prosperity in every area of our lives.

The word courage in Hebrew means *to fasten upon, to seize, be strong, (fig. cure, help, repair, fortify, courageous), to be obstinate (to refuse to change our opinion or course of action), to bind, restrain, conquer. Also to continue, encourage self, established, force, harden, become mighty, prevail, recovered, valiantly, withstand. To be alert, courageous, steadfastly minded, strong, fortify, harden, increase, prevail, strength in speed.*

God instructed Joshua a number of times in Joshua 1:1-9 to be strong and courageous. This was a key to his leading the children of Israel into victory and success.

We can find out about courage by finding out about discouragement and how the devil will use it to rob us of courage.

The word discouragement in both the Hebrew and Greek means -

- *spiritless, dishearten, dismayed*
- *grieve, loath, mourn, wax short, straiten (put into difficulty), troubled, vex (annoyed or harassed)*
- *refused, forbidden, dissuaded, neutralized, break, disallow, make ineffective*
- *prostrate - hence to break down by violence or confusion and fear, abolish, make afraid, amaze, beat down, scare, terrify*
- *to liquefy, to waste with disease, to faint with fatigue, fear or grief, be loosed, melt away*

Let us look at the example Moses gave us in Deut 1:19-33 to see 3 areas needed to combat discouragement.

<sup>19</sup> “So we departed from Horeb, and went through all that great and terrible wilderness which you saw on the way to the mountains of the Amorites, as the Lord our God had commanded us. Then we came to Kadesh Barnea. <sup>20</sup> And I said to you, ‘You have come to the mountains of the Amorites, which the Lord our God is giving us. <sup>21</sup> Look, the Lord your God has set the land before you; go up and possess it, as the Lord God of your fathers has spoken to you; do not fear or be discouraged.’

<sup>22</sup> “And every one of you came near to me and said, ‘Let us send men before us, and let them search out the land for us, and bring back word to us of the way by which we should go up, and of the cities into which we shall come.’

<sup>23</sup> “The plan pleased me well; so I took twelve of your men, one man from each tribe. <sup>24</sup> And they departed and went up into the mountains, and came to the Valley of Eshcol, and spied it out. <sup>25</sup> They also took some of the fruit of the land in their hands and brought it down to us; and they brought back word to us, saying, ‘It is a good land which the Lord our God is giving us.’

<sup>26</sup> “Nevertheless you would not go up, but rebelled against the command of the Lord your God; <sup>27</sup> and you complained in your tents, and said, ‘Because the Lord hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us. <sup>28</sup> Where can we go up? Our brethren have discouraged our hearts, saying, “The people are greater and taller than we; the cities are great and fortified up to heaven; moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakim there.”’

<sup>29</sup> “Then I said to you, ‘Do not be terrified, or afraid of them. <sup>30</sup> The Lord your God, who goes before you, He will

*fight for you, according to all He did for you in Egypt before your eyes,<sup>31</sup> and in the wilderness where you saw how the Lord your God carried you, as a man carries his son, in all the way that you went until you came to this place.<sup>32</sup> Yet, for all that, you did not believe the Lord your God,<sup>33</sup> who went in the way before you to search out a place for you to pitch your tents, to show you the way you should go, in the fire by night and in the cloud by day.*

Verse 21 reveals to us some great truths -

1. God already gave them the land
2. God told them to take it in order to enjoy it
3. It would take courage

We cannot be spiritless, spineless and dismayed and take hold of what God's perfect will for our lives - it takes courage to lay hold of the promises of God for our lives.

Let's look at the 3 areas to combat discouragement and walk courageous.

The first one is ***insecurity because of a lack of knowing***. Verses 27-28 tells us they complained and said God hates us, He is delivering us into our enemies' hands and they will destroy us. They believed a lie because they didn't know that God loved them or chose to believe that He didn't. Either way it discouraged them and they did not obey God and possess what He gave them.

We must find out what the bible says about God and then believe what the bible says about God. So we combat a lack of knowledge by John 15:7 -

*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. (NKJV)*

*If you live in Me [abide vitally united to Me] and My words remain in you and continue to live in your hearts, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. (AMP)*

As we maintain a close relationship with Him and get His Word in us and stay vitally united to it we will be confident, courageous and get God's results in our lives.

Ps 100:5, 135:3, 145:5-9 tells us *God is Good*. Eph 2:4 and Rom 8:31-39 NLT tell us *God Loves us*. Heb 13:5-6 AMP

*Let your character or moral disposition be free from love of money [including greed, avarice, lust, and craving for earthly possessions] and be satisfied with your present [circumstances and with what you have]; for He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]*

*So we take comfort and are encouraged and confidently and boldly say, The Lord is my Helper; I will not be seized with alarm [I will not fear or dread or be terrified]. What can man do to me?*

He will never leave us or forsake us - we take courage from the Words of our good and loving Father God. He is not turning us over to the devil or working with the devil - NO, NO a thousand times NO. Jesus said in John 10:10 that the DNA and figure prints of the devil is to steal, kill and destroy. Simple as that. Jesus has come (this is the will of God for each of us) to give us life (Zoe - the God kind of life, everlasting, eternal and it began the day we got born again) and this kind of life more abundantly, excessively, beyond measure and superior in quality. This is the kind of life and living God has given us through Jesus. Faith brings courage but fear brings discouragement.

The second area is in verse 29 where Moses tells them ***not to be terrified or afraid***. But they were and the fear kept them out of the promised land not the giants or tall walls.

Joshua 2:11 and 5:1 tells us the truth about the matter and it was that the testimony of God's goodness and power had made its way to the inhabitants living in the promised land and they were the ones terrified of the Israelites.

We combat fear with love. 1 John 4:18 tells us perfect love casts out all fear. Be persuaded of God's love for you and it will drive and kick out fear in your life. Faith brings courage therefore unbelief also brings discouragement.

The third area is **unbelief** based on verse 32 where they chose not to believe the Lord their God.

They had an evil and hard heart and departed from the living God. The Holy Spirit in Heb 3:7 - 4:6 tells us that this kind of unbelief and disobedience are choices. Therefore we can choose to believe God and obey Him and experience His will for our lives.

We combat this unbelief by teaching the Word and doing the Word. In Mark 6:1-6 Jesus marvelled at the people's unbelief and went about the area teaching the Word. Then in James 1:22 God instructs us to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. It is the doers who are blessed because faith or belief without works or corresponding action is dead and unproductive (is as if you didn't believe.)

So in conclusion let's go back to John 15:7 -

*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. (NKJV)*

*If you live in Me [abide vitally united to Me] and My words remain in you and continue to live in your hearts, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. (AMP)*

This sums up how we can combat discouragement in our lives and walk courageously and enjoy the victory and blessings that God has provided for each of us in Christ Jesus.

I will be adding the audio of this series to our website soon.  
To listen to it go to [www.jlmin.org](http://www.jlmin.org)

## **Audrey's Faith Tidbit**

### **The Goodness of God**

Romans 2:4 NKJV "Or do you despise the riches of His **goodness**, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that **the goodness of God leads you to repentance?**"

God is good. That puts a smile on my face when I say that and it should put one on yours too. In the beginning everything He created He saw that is was good and even very good when He finished what He wanted to do. It was good because God is good. And God is good to us.

Look at everything He has done for us and continues to do for us. He has not left us to the whims and wiles of the devil. He has provided the way of salvation through Jesus Christ which includes deliverance, safety, welfare, prosperity and preservation. Every day He gives us is another day to be thankful that we have more time to fulfill His plan for our lives. He gives to us every single day. Every day is another chance to go forward in His plan for our lives. When we see how good He is to us and has been to us, then we soften our hearts and turn to Him. Until we see His goodness, we carry on living however we want to live. We will not change until we see His goodness. Every time God has provided for us, we should be conscious of His provision and be thankful. He has provided safety and protection and met our needs and provided open doors that man could not open. We have been healed and delivered and set free. Hallelujah, we can rejoice in knowing how good God is to us! Now the rest of the world needs to see how good God is, so they may come to know Him and be saved.

When we can show others how good God is, then we will have an opportunity to share the gospel of salvation. Our lives are an open book for others to read and when we can show the love of God towards people by being a blessing to them, by helping them in some need, there will be an opportunity to share the gospel. Whether that happens through you or someone else, you have helped a seed to be planted and to grow. God will keep sending people across their paths to show them He is good. We are His hands and feet on the earth so we need to do our part to reach people and show them how good God is. People need to know that God is not the one stealing, killing and destroying (John 10:10 NKJV). Jesus said that He came that we might have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10 NKJV). Everything that falls in the category of stealing, killing and destroying is not from God. There is a devil and the curse he brought with him and he is out to give God a bad reputation. Therefore it is our responsibility to do our part to share God's love and His goodness with people so that they may know the truth. When they know the truth about God's goodness they will repent and turn towards God just like we did!





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