

EPHESIANS 6:10

COURAGE FOR THE WAR

Fifteen reasons for Christians to have courage:

1. God told us to

Matt. 10:26, 28, 31; Lk. 21:9; Phil. 1:28

Rule 3: Urge upon your hearts the express prohibitions of Christ...and let your hearts stand in awe of the violations of them. "Doth every big word of proud dust and ashes make thee afraid? Doth the voice of a man make thee tremble? and shall not the voice of God: If thou art of such a fearful and timorous spirit, how is it that thou fearest not to disobey the flat commands of Jesus Christ? Methinks the command of Christ should have as much power to calm, as the voice of a poor worm to terrify thy heart... We cannot fear creatures sinfully, till we have forgotten God; did we remember what he is, and what he hath said, we should not be of such feeble spirits: Bring thy heart, then to this dilemma in times of danger; if I let into my heart the slavish fear of man, I must let out the reverential awe and fear of God; and dare I cast off the fear of the Almighty for the frowns of a man? Shall I lift up proud dust above the great God? Shall I run upon a certain sin, to shun a probable danger? O keep thy heart by this consideration!"¹

— John Flavel

2. God is greater than anything that might make us afraid

Ex. 15:1ff; Job 33:12

"We cannot fear creatures sinfully, till we have forgotten God; did we remember what he is, and what he hath said, we should not be of such feeble spirits; Bring thy heart, then, to this dilemma in times of danger; if I let into my heart the slavish fear of man, I must let out the reverential awe and fear of God; and dare I cast off the fear of the Almighty for the frowns of man?"² — John Flavel

3. God is glorified by our courage

Ps. 34:8-9; 46:1-3; Jn. 12:23

¹ John Flavel, *The Works of John Flavel, Volume 5* (Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1968), 452.

² John Flavel, *The Works of John Flavel, Volume 5* (Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1968), 452.

4. The fear of God will bring upon us less trouble than other fears

Num. 16:1ff; Jn. 15:18-23; 2Tim. 3:12

5. Our reward for courage will make amends for all our troubles

Matt. 6:1ff; Jn. 5:44

6. There is more evil in our own fear than in the thing feared

Job 36:21

*"The least evil of sin is worse than the greatest evil of suffering."³
— John Flavel*

7. There is no good reason to fail to be courageous

Hag. 1:5, 7

8. God has supplied us with every possible resource for our courage

2Tim. 1:7; Heb. 4:14-16

9. Our being created in the image of God demands it

Gen. 1:26-27; 1Cor. 16:13; 2Pet. 3:5-6

10. Whatever real or imagined harm might befall you will soon be over and can do you no eternal harm

Rom. 8:37-39; 2Cor. 4:17-18

11. You now regret every past fear

Rom. 6:21

12. Others have endured greater fears and conquered by faith

Heb. 11:32-12:1

13. A conscience guilty of fear will only compound your dread

Pro. 28:1

14. Your bodily health is better when you are unafraid and fear the LORD alone

Pro. 3:7-8, 21-26

15. Where else will the world find an example of godly courage?

Matt. 5:16; 1Pet. 3:13-16

³ John Flavel, *The Works of John Flavel, Volume 5* (Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1968), 453.