

Week of January 15

Book: No More Excuses

Ch. 3: No More Holding Back

Theme: Courage

Overview:

Courage is something many people seek to embody. Though it's not an easy task to truly be courageous. Look at [Joshua 1:1-9](#). God uses the statement "be strong and courageous" three times. He even adds the flip side of it and says: "Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed".

Courage in the context of the Bible refers to drawing a line in the sand/dirt and standing your ground with God. Courage outside of God is misguided and poorly executed. We're called to stand on His Word and not lean on human wisdom and reasoning.

One way courage presents itself to our fellow man is in encouraging other people. To encourage someone means to give courage and confidence to someone. It sounds counterintuitive, but I gain more courage in my day-to-day when I encourage other people. It becomes fun and infectious, and it creates a cool culture. It takes nothing away from you as a person to encourage other people.

Scripture Memory: [1 Corinthians 16:13-14](#).

- Start meditating on this passage throughout the week and then study it on Sunday.

Daily Devotions:

- **Monday:** [1 Peter 3:15-16](#)
 - *What subjects are you most prepared to talk about? Sports, current events, investments, etc.? Based on how you live your life, what are people most likely to ask you about? Is your commitment to Christ on such display that others ask "you for a reason for the hope that is in you"?*
- **Tuesday:** [Colossians 3:12-25](#)
 - *Do you consider your family and your vocation ministries? Why or why not? What changes will you make based on these responses?*
- **Wednesday:** [Joshua 3](#)
 - *Has God ever called you to cross the Jordan? To take a step of faith into overflowing waters? Why or why didn't you do it? What was that decision's impact on your life?*
- **Thursday:** [Psalm 27](#)
 - *Are you wishing by faith more than you are walking by faith? What changes in your life can you make right now in pivoting towards walking by faith?*

- **Friday:** [Psalm 139](#)
 - Tony says, “It is critical to stay close to God. You need to keep the communication channels open; to keep your heart, mind, and soul pure; and repent of your sins regularly so that you will hear what God has to say.”
 - *How often are you communicating with God? In what ways are you communicating to Him? Why is repentance crucial to clear communication with God? Do you approach Him with a continual posture of repentance? Why or why not?*
- **Saturday:** [1 Corinthians 10:23-33](#)
 - *Are the priorities within your life self-serving or serving a God-given purpose?*
- **Sunday:** [1 Corinthians 16:13-14](#)
 - *Ask a brother about the Scripture Memory for the week to keep each other accountable.*

Weekly Challenge:

Let’s learn to cultivate an environment of encouragement. Encouragement isn’t flattery or empty words. To truly be encouraging you must observe and take an interest in those you serve.

And... encouragement is not always simply telling someone they are great. Sometimes encouragement is a rebuke, for example, as in telling someone they have more than they offer.

Seek opportunities to encourage someone in their faith, in areas where you see growth. Start with those close to you. Encourage your spouse, children, friends, parents, neighbors, etc. There are always opportunities to lift someone up.

Song of the Week:

[That’s When - Alvin Slaughter](#)

