

Challenging Days

- War with Ukraine and Russia
- Economic uncertainty, inflation, digital dollars
- Moral and social unrest
- Political uncertainty
- Increasing tensions between US and China

We Must Be People Of Faith

- 1Thess.5:16-18 – Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- Joshua 24:15 - And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

We Must Be People Of Faith And Courage

- Gen.49:14 Issachar is a strong donkey, crouching between the sheepfolds. ¹⁵ He saw that a resting place was good, and that the land was pleasant, so he bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant at forced labor.
- Judges 5:15 The princes of Issachar came with Deborah, and Issachar faithful to Barak; into the valley they rushed at his heels.
- 1 Chron. 12:32- Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, 200 chiefs, and all their kinsmen under their command.

We Must Be People Of Faith And Courage

- God calls us to "be strong and of good courage" Dan.10:19
- Fear is often our natural response. Fear comes unbidden. But being strong and courageous doesn't come naturally. Often, we have to think through different reasons why we ought to overcome our fears with courage. God calls us to take courage because it doesn't just come naturally; we have to fight for it. Confronted with fears on every side and even from within, courage must be seized. - Jon Bloom (Desiring God)

We Must Be People Of Faith And Courage

- **Biblical courage is Faith based on the promises and word of God**
- **Phil. 4:6–7** Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- **Heb.4:16** Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- **Jhn 16:33** "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

We Must Be People Of Faith And Courage

- **Isaiah 41:10** "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."
- **Joshua 1:9**"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." 1-9 3 times told to be courageous
- **Prov. 3:5–6** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.
- **Isa. 41:13** "For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I am the one who helps you.'"

We Must Be People Of Faith And Courage

- **Rom.15:13** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- **Matt.6:31–34** "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."
- **2Chron.7:14** "If my people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

We Have A Hope And A Future

- What does Paul say fuels "good courage"? God's promise of eternal life and the final resurrection to those who believe in Jesus (2 Cor. 4:16–5:5). And seeing this by faith (not physical sight) gives us courage to face the fear-inducing "wasting away" of our mortal bodies and the various forms of "affliction" we experience in this fallen world (2 Cor. 4:16–17).
- **Rev.8:3-5** – Prayer makes things happen
- **Rev.5:9-10** And the saints sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."
- **Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go!**