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Fuel for Courage

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Finding the Strength We Need
to Show ourselves Strong

Last week, in the first class of our new interactive Bible Study, we took a look at defining our terms (Fuel and Courage) and also we briefly examined a Profile in Courage: Barnabas. Barnabas, came alongside the newly converted Saul, later known as the Apostle Paul, at a time in the early Church when the disciples were uncertain of Saul's conversion to Christianity. Acts 4 : 36,37.

With the encouragement of Barnabas who stood shoulder to shoulder in ministry with Saul (aka) Paul would go on to give his life for the cause of Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit of God, Paul would go on to write 13 of the 26 books of Scripture found in the New Testament.

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The goal of our meeting together is to openly share what God has led us to know from His word and through life experiences. This is to be an interactive study. Different instructors will each have a month to be with you. God is giving us this time to encourage and learn from one another in the faith. As adult learners and as born again believers in Christ, God has given us His Word and His Holy Spirit to lead and guide us into all truth .

Think of a person you know, or have heard of, that you consider a person of courage. Share with us why you chose them.

When are some times in our world today when we need courage? Is there anything you would attempt for the Lord if you weren't afraid of failing?

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- It is interesting to note that in the KJV, the word **courage** is only found once in the New Testament. At our last lesson, we opened in the book of Acts 4:36,37 discussing Barnabas, the son of encouragement and how he was instrumental in helping to build up the first Church as well as he led to Saul's acceptance into the ministry.
- **In Acts 28:15**, after being imprisoned and on his way to Rome to be tried by Caesar, he suffered shipwreck, landed on an island where he was bitten by a viper, but the text tells us that Christian brothers from Rome made the trip and came to greet and encourage him. Paul thanked God and **took courage!**

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Paul appears to have been in low spirits. He had been going around establishing and encouraging Churches, returning to visit them to see how they were growing and correcting doctrinal errors, bringing funds for relief of the poor and now he was being encouraged by others.

God's Presence had given him comfort in the tossing sea and now the Christians in Rome played the role of comforters. No hint of self pity knowing what he had to face, Paul got his courage back. Just the sight of them encouraged his heart and he thanked God. Even the strong need encouragement.

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Paul was always willing to move into dangerous situations if he felt it was the Lord's will. A sense of purpose and calling bolsters our courage.

In this same chapter that spoke of Barnabas in last week's lesson Acts 4:10-13 another word for Courage is used. **Boldness** (when Peter and John healed a man at the gate called Beautiful. Acts 3:1-9) Acts 4:13 reads. "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."

Definition of Bold

Roget's Thesaurus: Rude and disrespectful , having or showing courage, taking or willing to take risks, standing out prominently. (brave,daring, prominent)

Vines's Expository:

Tharreo: to be of good courage

II Corinthians 5:6, 8 to be confident

II Corinthians 7:16 to have confidence

II Corinthians 10: 1-2 to be bold

Hebrews 13:6 Boldly with good courage

Parrhesiazomai to speak boldly or freely

I Thessalonians 2:2, Acts 13:46, Acts 9: 27,29

Tolmao to dare to do, or to bear something difficult or terrible II Corinthians 10:2

Apotolmao to be very bold, to speak out boldly Rom 10:20

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Four Points to Remember

- 1) The Holy Spirit of God equips us with boldness to do His will.
- 2) God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.
- 3) Even the strong need to be encouraged.
- 4) We all need encouragement from time to time just as we all need Courage.

Communication Information

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