



Courage: the mental or moral strength to venture, persevere and withstand danger, fear or difficulty.

Summary

- Being courageous can be costly, challenging but a cause for celebration
- Paul demonstrated courage:
 - In facing the unknown (Acts 20:22-24, Acts 27)
 - In speaking out boldly about his personal experience with Jesus (Acts 22 & 26)
 - In making hard choices (Acts 20: 22-24, Acts 27)
- He chose God's call over his own comfort
- Courage and hope should be hallmarks of Jesus' disciples. 'Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.' 1 Corinthians 16:13 (See also Hebrews 3:6)
- Paul had courage because he trusted in the person, power and promises of God (Acts 27:5, Hebrews 13:5,8, Matthew 28:20, John 16:33, John 14:16-21)
- It's Jesus job to build his church (Matthew 16:18, 1 Corinthians 3:7-9) and it's our job to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20)
- We are part of God's plan to reconcile the world to himself. We are Christ's ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20) therefore what we say, how we live and behave matters. We need to be growing disciples of Jesus ourselves. We need to grow AND go!

'Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses. And I charge you before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who gave a good testimony before Pontius Pilate, that you obey this command without wavering. Then no one can find fault with you from now until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.' 1 Timothy 6: 12-14

Going Deeper

- What cargo (things you value), ships tackle (things you think you might need) and anchors (things that offer some stability or security), do you need to release yourself and as a church?
- Are you more influenced by what others think or by what God says? (1 Thessalonians 2:4, Isaiah 8:13) Ask God to show you.

- How can you be an encourager of others? Who could you be encouraging in this period of transition?
- How are you using the spiritual gift(s) God has given you, especially as this is not for your benefit but for that of others (1 Corinthians 12:7)? If you don't know what gift(s) you may have, why not ask someone to help you? Read Ephesians 4:11-13, Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12: 4-13 for some guidance!
- Over the course of the 'Lights, Camera, Action' series, the scene is being set and the narrative begun for the replanting of DCF into Hope Church, focussing on:
 - **Behold I am doing a new thing!** – casting the vision
 - **The Force Awakens** – living in the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit every day!
 - **All for one and one for all!** – being a true faith community
 - **River Wild** – embracing change; moving forward together
 - **Gone with the wind**- mission, ministry and obedience
 - **Happy feet** – when the going gets tough...worship!
 - **Tales of the unexpected** – unlearning and reframing; God is always bigger than our understanding
 - **The fellowship of the ring** – serving and surrendering. Hope Church needs FAT people (faith filled, available and teachable)
 - **Home Alone** – pay careful attention to your own spiritual health and that of the church. An M & M church of mission AND maintenance
 - **Braveheart** – be a people of courage

What has God been saying to you through this series? What do you need to be acting upon? What help might you need to access to make this happen?

Further reading

Acts 23-28 / 2 Corinthians 11:23-33