

# Christian Characteristics

## VIRTUE

2 Peter 1:5-10

### Moral Excellence

“to do what one has to do as if from inclination – likened to courage which is the quality of being fearless.”

“Standing up for what is right regardless of what others think or what will happen to us.”

# Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Whatever you do, you need courage. Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising that tempt you to believe your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires some of the same courage that a soldier needs. Peace has its victories, but it takes brave men and women to win them.”

# Courage Ordered

- **Old Testament**
  - Joshua
    - Joshua 1:6-9
  - Israel
    - Joshua 23:1-6



# Courage Ordered

- **New Testament**

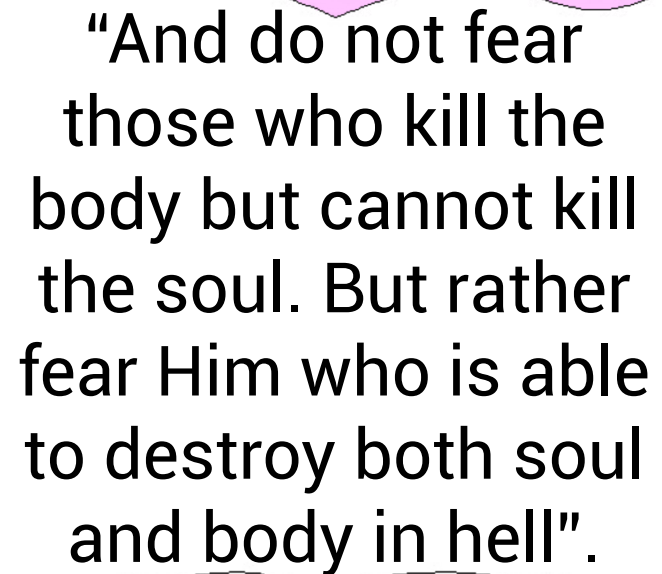
- Upon the Disciples of Christ

- Matthew 10:28

- Ordered by Paul

- 1 Corinthians 16:13

- Philippians 1:27-28



“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell”.

# Courage Is Needed

- **Must always do what is right**
  - Majority are sometimes wrong
  - **Matthew 7:13-14**

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

# Courage Is Needed

- **Must always do what is right**
  - Strength shown with our trust in God
    - **Philippians 4:13**
    - **Leviticus 26:8**

Bible examples who show us **COURAGE** even while in the minority

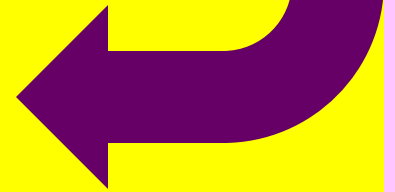
**Joshua and Caleb** – Numbers 13:30; 14:6f

**Gideon** – Judges 7:2-12

**Daniel** – Daniel 6:1-23

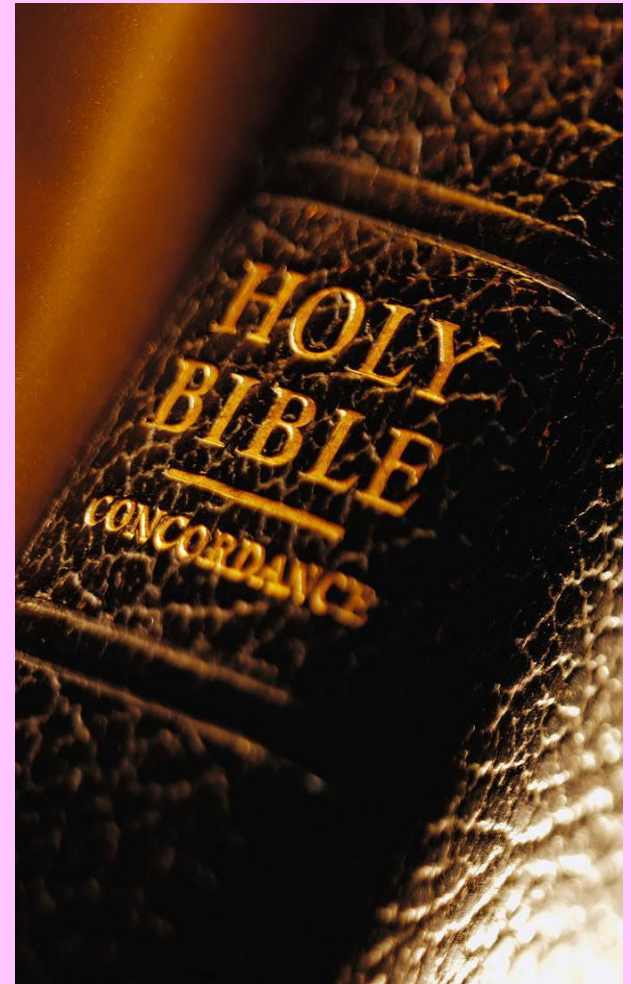
**Paul** – 2 Timothy 4:14-18

**Apostles** – Acts 4:18-20; 5:28-29



# We Are Virtuous When We:

- **Endure Temptation**
  - Temptation endured is for our own good
    - James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:6



# We Are Virtuous When We:

- **Have courage to say “NO”**
  - Joseph was an example of this
    - Genesis 39:7-9

Learn to avoid situations that will get us into trouble!





# We Are Virtuous When We:

- **Have courage to reprove those who sin**
  - Takes courage to confront the problem
  - **Titus 1:13**



# **We Are Virtuous When We:**

- **Have courage to reprove those who sin**

– Examples of courage of this kind:

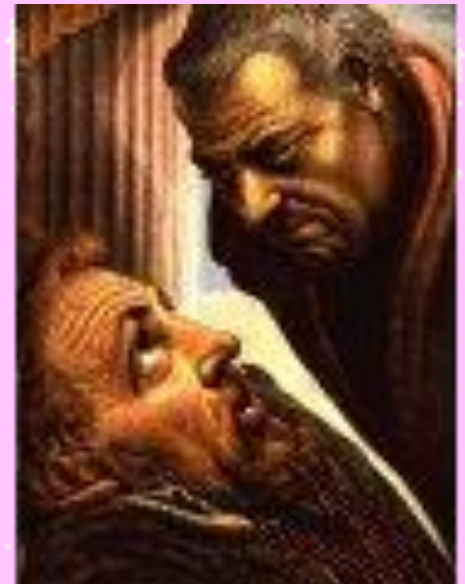
**Nathan Rebuking David**  
**2 Samuel 12:1-7**

**Peter Rebuking Ananias & Sapphira**

**Acts 5:1-5**

**Peter Rebuking Simon**

**Acts 8:20-23**



# We Are Virtuous When We:

- **Are able to preach and teach the truth**
  - Ready to endure persecution

**“be ready to stand for what we believe in at all cost.”**

**Stephen**  
**Acts 7**  
**Apostle Paul**  
**Acts 20:22-24**



# The Results of Virtue

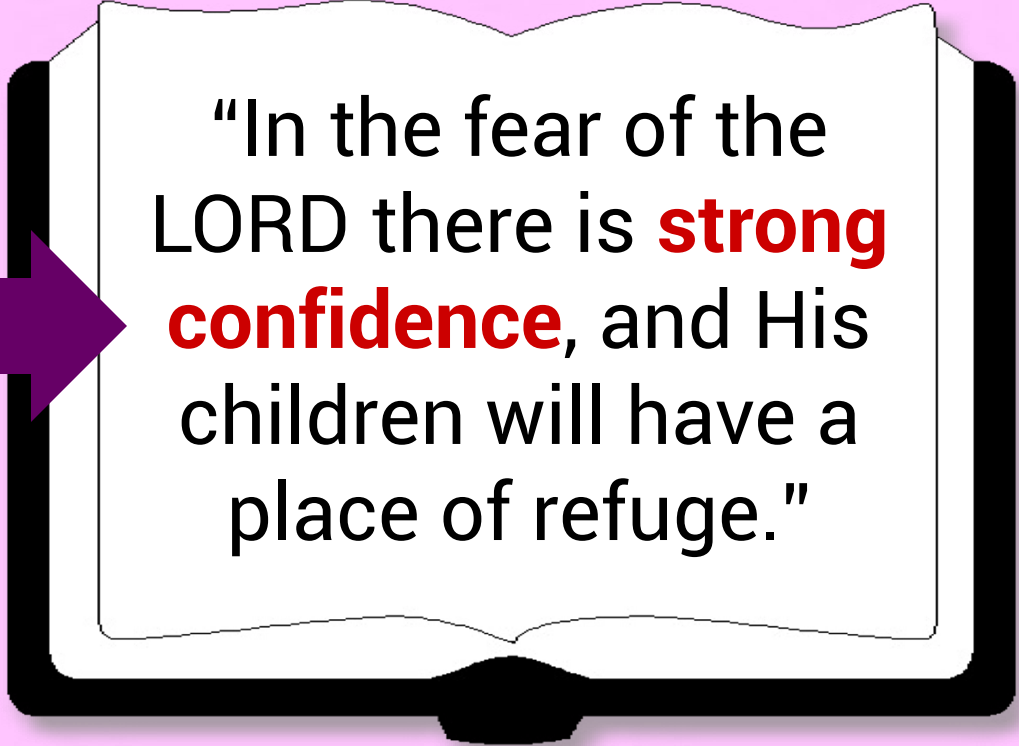
- Proves our sincerity to others
  - Acts 4:13
- Will mean everything to us after our life on this earth is over
  - Revelation 2:10

I would define true courage to be a perfect sensibility of the measure of danger, and a mental willingness to endure it. --- **W. T. Sherman**

# CONCLUSION

- Proper faith in God will give us Virtue

Proverbs 14:26



“In the fear of the LORD there is **strong confidence**, and His children will have a place of refuge.”

**We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us!**