

The Home of the Brave

Pt. 1 - Where Courage Abides

Opening joke - The courageous pig

Note - Our national anthem calls America the home of the brave, but where does courage truly abide?

- Courage abides with those who have been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13, The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.

Note - Spend time with Jesus. He will be bigger in your eyes than any threat you face!

[Promote 7 Days of Prayer & Fasting](#)

- Courage abides in the company of our spiritual family.

Acts 4:23-26, As soon as they were freed, Peter and John returned to the other believers and told them what the leading priests and elders had said. 24 When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God: "O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them - 25 you spoke long ago by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant, saying, 'Why were the nations so angry? Why did they waste their time with futile plans? 26 The kings of the earth prepared for battle; the rulers gathered together against the LORD and against his Messiah.'"

Note - Courage abides in the company of our spiritual family because that's where Jesus is!

Matthew 18:20, For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them."

Note - Courage comes from enCOURAGEment.

1 Thessalonians 5:11, So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

Promote Small Groups

- Courage abides where determination exists.

Acts 4:29, And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word.

Note - Their request for courage was in response to the world's demand to be silent. Will we have that kind of determination to preach the Word?

Example - 50 years of upholding the right to life.

- Courage abides where the Spirit is poured out.

Acts 4:31, After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.

Note - We need the empowerment of the Holy Spirit like never before!

Acts 1:8, But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere...

3 Things Found Where Courage Abides

1. Miracles

Acts 4:30, "Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

Note - The book of Acts is the documentation of daring acts carried out by courageous believers. There's no formal ending.

Example - Girl healed of Crohn's at camp.

2. Unity

Acts 4:32, All the believers were united in heart and mind.

Note - This is miraculous in and of itself.

Example - Our pledge states that under God we are indivisible. (Out from under God there is nothing but division!)

3. Generosity

Acts 4:32-b, ...they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.

Note - We are entering an hour of courageous benevolence.

Example - Foster care, adoption, etc.