

**Southside Church of Christ
Women of Faith Bible Class**

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Courage in Times of Adversity

**Adversity: A state or instance of serious or continued difficulty or misfortune.
(See also Loss or Persecution or Suffering or Trouble)**

Troubles come with a multitude of names – accidents, afflictions, bereavement, calamities, coronavirus, covid 19, difficulties, disasters, hard times, pandemic, etc. They come sometimes unexpectedly and sometimes after repeated warnings.

Adversity causes us to adopt new routines and habits, to mature in physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects of our being; and to grow in our relationship with the Lord. Adversity sometimes puts us under the authority of people who affect our lives in ways that are foreign to us.

In all these areas, we need courage to keep our balance as we feel hit by so many new feelings, facts, restrictions, limitations, obstacles and challenges.

Courage: The mental or moral strength to persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty. (See also Determination or Endurance, or Fearlessness)

Courage is required not only to face and endure times of adversity, but also to make the changes in our lives that adversity compels us to make.

In either case, we can trust the Holy Spirit to help us in times of trouble, He will provide the strength and hope not only to endure the hardship, but also to make the changes that are required of us so we can claim the blessings of God.

Where do I get the courage to go on when life seems too hard or obstacles seem too big?

- **Deuteronomy 20:1**... The Lord your God is with you!
- **Psalm 27:1** The Lord is my light and my salvation---so why should I be afraid?
- **Isaiah 41:10** Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.
- **Joshua 1:9**...Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for your God is with you wherever you go and whatever you are going through.

True courage comes from God, understanding that He is stronger than our mightiest foes and that He wants to use His strength to help us.

Fear paralyzes; Courage is what helps us move ahead. Courage does not conquer fear, it simply renders fear ineffective. Christians recognize that we have an extra resource in God's promised help in time of need. This should bring about a boldness to face any situation that comes our way....*even now*.

The Bible speaks of courage to stand firm against evil, to remain strong in the faith, to resist temptation, and courage to do the right thing. The more we learn to rely on God, the more courageous we will become.

Adversity literally means “something acting against you.”

No where is this concept more clearly presented than in the Word of God, which makes it clear that.

- God Himself sometimes will send adversity either as a punishment for sin or simply to test and strengthen our character.
- Other times Satan sends adversity to try to get us to sin. And God allows it.
- Sometimes we bring adversity on ourselves by acting foolishly or sinfully.
- And finally, there is the adversity that comes out of nowhere through no fault of our own.

The one thing we can count on about adversity is that it will come. We all will have troubles, so it is not a matter of will we or won't we – the issue is what will we do with adversity when it comes. **Will We Keep the Faith and Stand Firm on the Promises of God?**

- God is our refuge in times of trouble. Psalm 9:9; 46:1; Isaiah 43:2
- God does not ignore us when we are in trouble. Psalm 9:12
- God will not let us slip and fall. Psalm 55:22
- God offers rest from our burdens. Matthew 11:28
- Give your worries to God for He cares about you. 1 Peter 5:7

With the above Bible verses, we are instructed over and over again to be courageous and not fear, specifically because God is with us.

Conclusion:

When we measure life's adversities and trials against God's mighty power, we gain the courage we need to proceed on to triumph because He has already won the eternal victory for us.

Be Blessed...Be a Blessings!
Gloria Hamilton