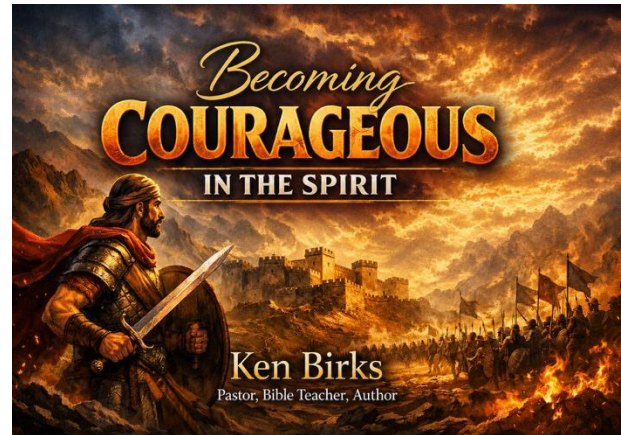


Becoming Courageous in the Spirit

By Ken Birks, Pastor, Bible Teacher, Author

The call to courage has always been a defining mark of God's people. From the moment Joshua stood on the threshold of the Promised Land, God's voice broke through every fear with a command that still reverberates through the ages: *"Be strong and of good courage."* Courage is not merely a virtue—it is a spiritual mantle placed upon those who dare to trust God beyond what their eyes can see. In this devotional article, we step into the same divine summons Joshua received, exploring how the Spirit of God shapes ordinary believers into extraordinary warriors. Courage is born in the presence of God, strengthened by His promises, and ignited by His Spirit. As we journey through these truths, may your heart awaken to the fierce, faith-filled boldness God intends for every believer who chooses to follow Him without hesitation.



Joshua 1:9 reverberates with divine authority: *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

These are not gentle suggestions. They are a summons—an awakening—spoken into the soul of a man God was about to thrust into the greatest battle season of his life. With these words, Joshua didn't simply become a leader; he became a warrior forged by God's presence. He stepped into the Promised Land not with timid hope, but with fierce expectation. Every step he took was charged with covenant purpose. Every battle he fought was anchored in the promise God had made to Abraham. Joshua's courage wasn't natural—it was supernatural. It was born from hearing God's voice and believing it more than the threats before him.

If we desire the same unshakeable courage Joshua carried, we must drink from the same well. Courage is not self-manufactured. It is not the product of personality, confidence, or temperament. Courage is born when our eyes lock onto Jesus, the One who authors our faith and perfects it. Hebrews exhorts us: *"Let us run with endurance the race set before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus."*

Courage rises when our gaze is lifted upward—away from fear, away from obstacles, away from our limitations—and fixed on the One who walks with us into every unknown.

A courageous spirit is obedience in motion. It is choosing God's calling even when fear whispers, hardship presses, or opposition roars. Joshua faced fortified cities, giants, and enemies determined to stop him. Yet he moved forward. He refused to let resistance define his destiny. He stepped into every battle with the confidence that God was already there. We must do the same.

To inherit the promises God has spoken over our lives, we must cultivate a courage rooted not in ourselves but in His presence. His promises become our strength. His nearness becomes our boldness. Courage wraps us in God's ability, enabling us to overcome even when our knees tremble. It is the willingness to do what is right because God is with us wherever we go, just as He was with Joshua.

This is the hour for warriors. This is the moment for the Church to rise with fierce faith and holy resolve. This is the season to take the kingdom by force—not with violence of the flesh, but with the unstoppable force of obedience, faith, and Spirit-empowered courage.

Matthew 11:12 declares: "From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."

This is not a call to aggression—it is a call to unyielding determination. A call to seize what God has promised. A call to advance when the enemy resists. A call to stand firm, move forward, and believe boldly. Joshua did not shrink back. And neither can we.

God is raising warriors—men and women who refuse to bow to fear, who carry courage like a mantle, and who step into destiny with expectation burning in their hearts. The same God who walked with Joshua walks with you. The same Spirit that empowered Joshua empowers you. The same promises that fueled Joshua fuel you. Be strong. Be courageous. The Lord your God is with you—wherever you go.

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Taking the kingdom by force means that we are to be passionate, zealous believers who forcefully press into the Kingdom of God, overcoming fears and opposition

with an intense spiritual effort and faith that produces great eagerness. In other words, courage is God-given boldness to stand for truth, live with integrity, and persevere in faith, even when it is unpopular or painful, while trusting God will see us through. Christian courage is the willingness to say and do the right thing regardless of the earthly cost, because God promises to help and save us on account of Christ.

Courage is indispensable for both spreading and preserving the truth of Christ. Jesus promised that spreading the gospel would meet resistance when He said, *"Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name."*¹

Faith-Filled Principles that Produce a Courageous Spirit.

Understand you are Fully Forgiven and Righteous before God - When we fully embrace the perfect righteousness we have in God through Jesus Christ, we understand He has perfected us forever in His righteousness.² This is where we stand positionally in Christ. As Jesus said to the paralytic, *"Take courage, son, your sins are forgiven,"* so must we do.³ The book of Proverbs shows that by embracing our righteousness in Christ, we are as bold as lions.⁴ In fact, it goes on to say, *"The wicked flee when no one pursues."* Talk about courage! How can we help but have a courageous spirit when the enemies of our faith are fleeing right before our eyes?

Be Filled with the Spirit - The early disciples of Jesus were all filled with the Holy Spirit, resulting in speaking the word of God with great boldness.⁵ As a result, they went everywhere, turning their world upside down with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus told his disciples, when He was about to depart to His Father in Heaven, He would leave them with the Helper, the Holy Spirit. We now have the same power available to us through the Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead.

Believe in the Promise, God is With Us Wherever We Go - Just as He told Joshua, *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be*

¹ Matthew 24:9

² Hebrews 10:14

³ Matthew 9:2

⁴ Proverbs 28:1

⁵ Acts 4:31

dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." This same promise is available to us. As we are fully convinced that this same promise is available to us as born-again Christians, God will fill our hearts with faith to take the action that produces the faith needed to overcome any obstacles we are facing with a courageous spirit.⁶

Know that the One with You Is Greater than the Adversary – "Be strong and courageous . . . for the one with us is greater than the one with him. With him is only an arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles."⁷ God gives every believer this same promise as the beloved disciple, John exhorts us in his epistle. He says, *"You are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because He who is in you is greater than He who is in the world."*⁸

Being Sure that God Is Sovereign Over the Battles – "Be strong and let us show ourselves courageous for the sake of our people and for the cities of our God; and may the LORD do what is good in His sight."⁹

Through Prayer – As we open our hearts to God daily, through prayer, He assures us of the strength we have in Him through answered prayer. King David is quoted as saying, *"In the day when I cried out, You answered me, and made me bold with strength in my soul."* The same is true when King Hezekiah prayed when facing his enemies, he said, *"Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitudes that is with him; there there be more with us than him: with him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles,"*¹⁰

As we take heart from these great examples of faith and courage, God is able to give us the same strength and courage He gave them. Rise up and embrace courageous faith in your daily life. Just as Joshua led with boldness despite opposition, we are called to act in obedience to God's calling, even when facing fear or hardship. Fix your eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of your faith, and let His presence empower you to stand for truth, live with integrity, and persevere in faith—even when it is unpopular or difficult. Anchor your courage in the promises of God, knowing that He is with you wherever you go, and that the One who is with you is greater than any adversary you face.

⁶ Joshua 1:9

⁷ 2 Chronicles 32:7-8,

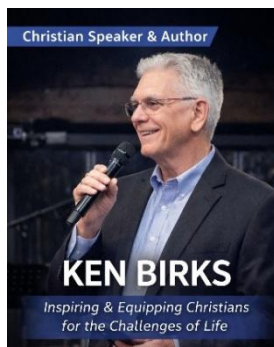
⁸ 1 John 4:4

⁹ 2 Samuel 10:12

¹⁰ Psalm 138:3, Ephesians 6:19-20

Courageous faith is not reserved for biblical heroes—it is the inheritance of every believer who chooses to trust God wholeheartedly. The same Spirit who empowered Joshua, David, Hezekiah, and the early disciples now empowers you to stand firm, speak boldly, and advance the Kingdom with unwavering resolve. As you meditate on God’s Word, embrace your righteousness in Christ, and yield daily to the Holy Spirit, courage will rise within you like a holy fire. Let every step you take be anchored in the assurance that God is with you, God is for you, and God is greater than every adversary you face. This is your moment to live with lion-hearted faith—to press into the Kingdom with zeal, to stand for truth with integrity, and to walk boldly into every battle knowing the Lord fights for you.

About Ken Birks



Ken Birks has walked with God through seasons of quiet wonder, deep refining, and unexpected grace — journeys that have shaped both his faith and voice. From early moments of sensing God’s nearness to years of learning to listen more closely, Ken has discovered that the Lord often speaks in whispers, rhythms, and poetic impressions.

Out of those sacred encounters came a desire to write — not to impress, but to invite. To invite others into the same stillness, the same clarity, the same holy encouragement that has carried them through life’s valleys and mountaintops. His devotional poetry and other writings flow from a heart that has wrestled, worshiped, and been transformed by God's presence.

Today, Ken writes to help fellow believers pause, breathe, and rediscover the treasures God longs to place within them. Ken’s hope is simple: that every reader will feel the Father’s nearness, hear His voice more clearly, and walk with renewed courage into the calling He has lovingly prepared.

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