



STANDING COURAGEOUSLY FOR THE TRUTH

Uncommon Courage
Rick Warren

"No one had the courage to speak favorably about [Jesus] in public." John 7:13 (NLT)

"One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: 'Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.'" Acts 18:9 (NIV)

Jesus: "Stand up for me against world opinion and I'll stand up for you before my Father in heaven." Matthew 10:32 (MSG)

POPULAR ANTI-CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEWS

1. _____
Jesus: "One's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15 (ESV)

2. _____
"You're addicted to thrills? What an empty life! The pursuit of pleasure is never satisfied." Proverbs 21:17 (MSG)

"Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong." Exodus 23:2 (NIV)

3. _____
"It's selfish and stupid to think only of yourself." Proverbs 18:1 (CEV)

"Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:4-5 (NASB)

4. _____
Jesus: "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." Matthew 22:21 (BSB)

"We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,' . . . Peter and the other apostles replied: 'We must obey God rather than human beings!'" Acts 5:28-29 (NIV)

UNPOPULAR TRUTHS IN GOD'S WORLDVIEW THE SANCTITY OF . . .

1. **LIFE:** _____
"You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. . . . Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed." Psalm 139:13-16 (NLT)

2. **SEX:** _____
"Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral." Hebrews 13:4 (NIV)

3. **MARRIAGE:** _____
Jesus: "From the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." Matthew 19:4-6 (BSB)

HOW CAN I LIVE WITH UNCOMMON COURAGE?

1. _____
"God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us." Hebrews 6:18 (NLT)

2. _____
"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus." Acts 4:13 (NIV)

"After they had prayed . . . they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke God's word without fear." Acts 4:31 (NCV)

"Do not lose your courage, then, because it brings with it a great reward." Hebrews 10:35 (GNT)

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THE COURAGE TO KEEP GOING

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Paul: "We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because we don't know why things happen as they do, but we don't give up and quit. We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going." 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (TLB)

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE GIVING UP

The Example of Job

1. _____
"Job stood up, tore his robe in grief, and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground and worshiped." Job 1:20 (GW)

"I can't be quiet! I am angry and bitter. I have to speak!" Job 7:11 (GNT)

"Cry out in the night. . . . Pour out your heart like water in prayer to the Lord."
Lamentations 2:19 (NCV)

Jeremiah (Jeremiah 20:7), Naomi (Ruth 1:20), David (Psalm 88:15)

2. _____
"When desperate people give up on God Almighty, their friends, at least, should stick with them." Job 6:14 (MSG)

"Encourage each other and give each other strength."
1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NCV)

"By helping each other with your troubles, you truly obey the law of Christ."
Galatians 6:2 (NCV)

3. _____
"Why didn't I die as I came from the womb? Why was I laid on my mother's lap? Why did she nurse me at her breasts?" Job 3:11-12 (NLT)

"Why let people go on living in misery? Why give light to those in grief?"
Job 3:20 (GNT)

"Who is the Almighty, and why should we obey him? What good will it do us to pray?" Job 21:15 (NLT)

4. _____

"Then Job replied to the LORD: 'I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you. You asked, "Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?" It is I—and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me. I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance.'" Job 42:1-3, 6 (NLT)

REMIND MYSELF . . .

- That he is a good & loving God Job 10:12
- That he is all-powerful Job 36:22, 37:5
- That he notices every detail of my life Job 23:10, 31:4
- That he is in control Job 34:13
- That he has a plan for my life Job 23:14
- That he will protect me Job 5:11

"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him." Job 13:15 (KJV)

5. _____
"I came naked from my mother's womb," [Job] said, "and I shall have nothing when I die. The Lord gave me everything I had, and they were his to take away. Blessed be the name of the Lord." In all of this Job did not sin or revile God."
Job 1:21-22 (TLB)

"[Job's] wife said to him, 'Are you still trying to maintain your integrity? Curse God and die.' But Job replied, 'You talk like a foolish woman. Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?' So in all this, Job said nothing wrong." Job 2:9-10 (NLT)

"Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you . . . it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives." Hebrews 12:15 (TLB)

6. _____
"Put your heart right, Job. Reach out to God. Put away evil and wrong from your home. Then face the world again, firm and courageous. Then all your troubles will fade from your memory, like floods that are past and remembered no more. Your life will be brighter than sunshine at noon, and life's darkest hours will shine like the dawn. You will live secure and full of hope." Job 11:13-18 (GNT)

"We are praying, too, that you will be filled with his mighty, glorious strength so that you can keep going no matter what happens—always full of the joy of the Lord." Colossians 1:11 (TLB)

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THE COURAGE TO FOLLOW YOUR CALLING

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• **GOD** _____

• **ONLY I** _____

"I . . . beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God." Ephesians 4:1 (NLT)

HOW DO I FOLLOW MY CALLING?

2 Generations as examples: Caleb & Timothy

1. _____
"They gave Moses this account: 'We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.'" Numbers 13:27-29 (NIV)

"Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, 'We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.'" Numbers 13:30 (NIV)

Caleb & Joshua: "[The LORD] will lead us into that land and give us that fertile land. Don't turn against the LORD! Don't be afraid of the people in that land! We will chew them up. They have no protection, but the LORD is with us." Numbers 14:8-9 (NCV)

2. _____
"All the Israelites grumbled . . . and . . . said. . . 'If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? . . . We should . . . go back to Egypt.'" Numbers 14:2-4 (NIV)

"The whole community began to talk about stoning Joshua and Caleb." Numbers 14:10 (NLT)

3. _____
Caleb: "Here I am, eighty-five years old. I am still as strong today as I was the day Moses sent me out, and I am just as ready to fight now as I was then. So give me the mountain country the LORD promised me that day long ago. Back

then you heard that the Anakite people lived there and the cities were large and well protected." Joshua 14:10-12 (NCV)

4. _____
"Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but be an example for the believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith, and purity. . . . Do not neglect the spiritual gift that is in you. . . . Practice these things and devote yourself to them, in order that your progress may be seen by all." 1 Timothy 4:12, 14-15 (GNT)

"Fan into flames the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity but one of power, love, and self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:6-7 (ISV)

5. _____
"Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you." 1 Timothy 4:16 (NLT)

"Timothy, guard what God has entrusted to you. Avoid godless, foolish discussions with those who oppose you with their so-called knowledge. Some people have wandered from the faith by following such foolishness." 1 Timothy 6:20-21 (NLT)

6. _____
"Run your best in the race of faith, and win eternal life for yourself; for it was this life that God called you." 1 Timothy 6:12 (GNT)

THE LEGACY OF TIMOTHY & CALEB

Timothy – "I have no one else like Timothy." Philippians 2:20 (NLT)

Caleb – "Because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it." Numbers 14:24 (NIV)

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