

STANDING COURAGEOUSLY FOR THE TRUTH

Uncommon Courage – Rick Warren
Parts 1-4

"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: "If you stand up for me against world opinion, I'll stand up for you before my Father in heaven." Matthew 10:32 (The Message)

POPULAR ANTI-CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEWS

1. _____
Jesus: "A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."
Luke 12:15

2. _____
"Are you addicted to thrills? What an empty life! The pursuit of pleasure is never satisfied." Proverbs 21:17 (The Message)

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

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

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:4-5

4. _____
Jesus: "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but give to God what is God's."
Matthew 22:21

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

UNPOPULAR TRUTHS IN GOD'S WORLDVIEW The sanctity of . . .

1. **LIFE:** _____
"You Lord, made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb . . . Your workmanship is marvelous. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every planned day of my life was recorded in your book and 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

3. **MARRIAGE:** _____
Jesus: "From the beginning, the Creator made male and female. This is the reason a man is to leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two become one flesh. They are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." Matthew 19:4-6

HOW CAN I LIVE WITH UNCOMMON COURAGE?

1. _____
"God has given us 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 take new courage, for we can hold on to his promise with confidence." Hebrews 6:18 (NLT)

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

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

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

Next Step

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THE COURAGE TO KEEP GOING

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Paul: *"We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed and broken. We are perplexed, 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 (NLT)

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'm 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 20:67) 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 (The Message)

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

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

3. Why didn't I die at birth as I came from the womb? Why did my mother let me live? 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 if we 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 ask, "Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?" It is I. I was talking about things I did not understand, 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, 23
- 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, I will trust in him." Job 13:15 (KJV)

5. Job said, 'I came naked from my mother's womb 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 by blaming 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 godless 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 pray 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)

Next Step

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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 indeed 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 there . . . and the Hittites, the Jebusites, the Amorites, and the Canaanites all live there!'" 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: "The Lord will lead us into that land and will 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 desert! Why is the Lord taking us to a new country only to die in battle? . . . Let's go back to Egypt where we've lived all our lives!'" Numbers 14:2-4 (NLT)

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

3. _____
Caleb said: "I'm now eighty-five years old. I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out, and I'm just as ready to fight now as I was then. So give me the mountain region the Lord promised me that day long ago. You know the giants live there and the cities are large with great walls." 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 . . . And 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 flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:6-7 (NIV)

5. _____
"Keep a close watch on yourself and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right, and God will save you and 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 to 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 he follows me wholeheartedly, I will give him the land he went to, and his generations following will inherit it." Numbers 14:24 (NIV)

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