

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Courage

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**When** the word courage comes up from time to time, many of us being raised on cowboy and combat movies (long before there were chick flicks) conjure up visions of John Wayne in the Sands of Iwo Jima, Rooster Cogburn in True Grit, or maybe Harrison Ford in Star Wars or as Indiana Jones. Across the wide movie screen there are many actors, many names, and many stories that fill us with a satisfied feeling of well being. For, in our vivid imagination, we know had we been able to stand beside our celluloid heroes, we too would have been just as brave; we too would have had the courage to stand in the face of whatever adversity that came our way.

When defining the word courage, the Merriam – Webster on line dictionary says; *courage is the mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.*

When considering truly courageous people, we need to look no further than our Bibles. Its pages are filled with worthy examples of courage. How about the courage of Abraham, following the instructions to offer his

son, Isaac, as a sacrifice. Although his hand was stilled, he had the mental and moral strength to carry out the difficult request and task he was given. (*Genesis 22:9-12*). How about Samson, though blind and beaten, standing between two pillars to bring down the temple because of his love for the Lord, yet knowing his death was imminent (*Judges 16:26-30*). There is the courage of Mary, the mother of Jesus, suffering the mental anguish and frustration of the unknown, but having the fortitude to persevere in the face of all that had happened to her before the birth of Jesus and after. (*Matthew 1:18-25*). Of course there is our Lord, Christ himself. Facing the cross of crucifixion, not for His sins, but mankind’s sins for all time, dies a cruel death so there could be the plan of salvation; so all of us would have the opportunity to be saved. (*John 3:16*)

We Christians need to look around at the people with whom we worship. The elderly have drawn on the quiet wisdom of time, and a determination to live a Christian life regardless of the everyday occurrences that can weaken any resolve. There are the first generation Christians who have lost family and friends be-

cause of their choice to be Christians. There are the families in which parents have been in the faith all their adult lives, struggling with the raising of their children in this Devil’s- owned world. There are untold numbers of Christians who have won and lost in life, but have held their good Christian values close to their hearts. They held to their beliefs with a great tenacity, These people too have great courage.

Although the “Duke” had courage in every film I saw him in, his courage can’t compete with the Bible, or the Christians that gather at this place.

Remember 2 Corinthians 5:6-8 the writer simply tells us, *Being therefore always of good courage, and knowing that, while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord for we walk by faith, not by sight, we are of good courage, I say, and are willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be at home with the Lord.*

Our courage is proportionate to our faith. The stronger the faith, the stronger will our courage be to face the difficulties and challenges of life.