

Acts
Courage in the Face of Adversity
Acts 22:22 – 23:11

One of the relational skills we teach our children is that of sharing. We teach the basic concepts of politeness and respect with words like “please” and “thank you.” With repetition and reminder, these words can become natural to them, especially if they realize that by using them they have a better chance of getting what they want. Sharing doesn’t come as naturally because sharing is a matter of the heart.

“Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point.”
--Screwtape, *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis

1. Gospel courage gives us unwavering confidence.

2. Gospel courage gives us humble boldness.

3. Gospel courage gives us shrewd wisdom.

Believers need courage to stand, to proclaim, and to declare the glory of God in the midst of this crooked and twisted generation. That kind of courage can only come from God Himself. It is a courage that can only be found in the gospel of Jesus Christ. When pressed with doubt, fear, and anxiety, grab hold of God and do not let go. Ask Him for courage and strength. Run to the God who can and will provide all the courage you will ever need to proclaim His goodness in this not so good world.

For further consideration

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-12. What is your reaction to this text? Have you ever felt this way in your faith journey? How did Paul live out this text? Do you think Paul should have allowed himself to be flogged rather than use the citizenship card for his defense? Compare Pauls’ reaction to Ananias with Jesus’ reaction to him found in Luke 22:63-71 and John 18:19-23. Do you think Paul responded appropriately? What are the biggest challenges when it comes to sharing the gospel with someone who is hostile to Christianity? What about with someone who is indifferent to Christianity? How can we experience the reassuring presence of Jesus on a daily basis? Take a few minutes to pray for gospel-sharing opportunities and for the boldness and courage to follow through on those conversations.