

COURAGE: NOT JUST FOR HEROES

Developing Winning Character – Part 1

August 10, 2008

1 Corinthians 9:25 (CEV) *“Athletes work hard to win a crown that cannot last, but we do it for a crown that will last forever.”*

1. BUILDING A STRONG CHARACTER.

“Character is what we do when _____ is looking.

Character is not what we have done, but _____ we are.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

2. COURAGE: NOT JUST FOR HEROES.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV) *“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”*

THE MANY FACES OF COURAGE...

- Courage in the _____.

Joshua 24:15 (NIV) *“...Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”*

- Courage to be _____.

1 John 1:9 (NIV) *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*

- Courage to _____.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV) *“We live by faith, not by sight.”*

Proverbs 3:6 (NKJV) *“In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”*

- **Courage in our _____.**

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) *“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”*

- **Courage to be _____.**

Ephesians 5:8-11 (NIV) *“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Live as children of light**⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists **in all goodness, righteousness and truth**)¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord.¹¹ **Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.**”*

3. HOW TO GROW IN COURAGE.

- **Face your _____.**

Matthew 14:25-27 (NIV) *“During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.²⁶ When the disciples saw Him walking on the lake, **they were terrified.** ‘It’s a ghost,’ they said, and **cried out in fear.**²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: **‘Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.’**”*

John 20:19 (NIV) *“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the **doors locked for fear** of the Jews, **Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’**”*

1 John 4:18a (NIV) *“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear...”*

- **Surround yourself with good _____.**

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV) *“Do not be misled: **‘Bad company corrupts good character.’**”*

- **Allow your mind to be _____.**

Romans 12:2 (NIV) *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is--His good, pleasing and perfect will.”*