

Daily Devotional, March 21, 2020

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. 1 Corinthians 16:13

Throughout scripture, we find a common theme: *be brave*.

What does bravery look like to you? Maybe it's putting on a strong face while confronting a bad diagnosis. Or it could be the men and women who jump into the midst of burning buildings, riots, and war zones to protect and save others.

What if bravery was having the faith to push through another hard day?

The Apostle Paul, writing to the church in the city of Corinth, encouraged these new believers to stand strong in the midst of difficult circumstances. Not only was their city trying to stop them from gathering in the name of Jesus, but they were beginning to fight in the middle of their own gatherings. The young church was full of different people who had various opinions on how they should meet, how they should worship, and what it looked like to live a godly life. Sound familiar?

But, instead of scolding the believers in Corinth, Paul encouraged them to remember why they were getting together in the first place – it was because of Jesus. The fact that Jesus Himself experienced many trials and tribulations throughout His life and His ministry, reminds us that we can stand boldly in our own trials. Why? Because nothing can happen to us that Jesus did not experience, and has not already overcome!

Because we have died with Christ, we are hidden with Him in God. (Colossians 3:3) Nothing we go through can indeed harm us. Because we live in this amazing truth, Paul says that we can stand our ground against the enemies of our lives and move forward each day with purpose and with hope!

How are you dealing with this widespread trial that you are experiencing right now? Can you name another trial that is grieving you? What does this verse say about your trial, and how can you change your perspective knowing that God is with you?

Do you know of someone else who is experiencing a difficult time during this crisis? How can you use the truth of Paul's words in 1 Corinthians to encourage them to push through, and perhaps find their hope in Jesus? Share this with them.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we pray for bravery and strength in the midst of difficult circumstances. We know that we alone cannot stand against the struggles in our lives, but we know that nothing that happens to us is outside of Your knowledge. Your love reaches through the darkest storms, and we rejoice in the fact that eternal life with you awaits us at the end of our days. Help us to live with courage and faith each and every day. We pray in Your blessed and holy name. Amen.