

Question:

Praise the Lord Jesus! I would like to understand the difference between faith and courage.

Answer:

Courage is the ability to face a problem, difficulty, or challenge—it is the strength to overcome fear. Courage can be observed in any living creature. For example, you can see courage in a person, a lion, a dog, or even a snake. It is a natural quality that one can be born with. Courage does not necessarily depend on belief; it can exist independently of faith.

Faith, on the other hand, comes from the word “to believe.” Faith is not something that exists by itself; rather, it is born out of trusting or relying on something else. It is through faith that one gains the power to do what was previously impossible. For instance, why do you calmly pass by a chicken on the road without fear, but when you encounter a snake, you jump and run

away or prepare to defend yourself? It's because your eyes have taught you that the chicken is harmless while the snake is dangerous. Your courageous response comes from your faith in the truth your senses have revealed. If you did not believe this, your actions would not follow. Therefore, courage is a product of faith—but faith is never a product of courage.

This truth also applies to us spiritually. To have perfect faith, we must have a sure foundation to rely on. That foundation is none other than the Word of God. This is where everything ends—this is the “eye of our soul” that must be revived, for it gives us the courage to do all things and accomplish the impossible by human standards.

Faith does not come by any other means than hearing the Word of God. The Bible says in

Romans 10:17 (ESV):

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

When you read God's Word and see the mighty deeds He performed, that is when your faith is born—the faith to act and move forward. For example, if you are barren, when you read the story of Sarah and Abraham, who received a child in their old age, you gain the strength to believe that if God did it for Sarah, He can do it for you too—because He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). But if you do not know this truth or do not meditate on it regularly, your faith will not arise; you will remain resigned to your situation.

When David faced Goliath, he reflected on how God had helped him defeat lions and bears while tending sheep in the wilderness (1 Samuel 17). He trusted God could help him defeat this giant, and indeed He did. Likewise, to do great things and unlock the impossible, you need faith—not faith in people or possessions, but faith in God and His Word.

Make it your habit to love and feast on the Word of God every morning, noon, and night.

The Bible also says in Hebrews 11 (ESV), often called the “Faith Hall of Fame,” about the great examples of faith:

- By faith Moses, when grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter (Hebrews 11:24).
- By faith, he chose to suffer with God's people rather than enjoy sin's fleeting pleasures (v. 25).
- By faith, he led the Israelites out of Egypt, unafraid of the king's anger (v. 27).
- By faith, the walls of Jericho fell after they were encircled for seven days (v. 30).
- And many others who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised (vv. 33–34).

These examples show that faith is what empowers believers to face trials, endure suffering, and accomplish God's purposes.

Summary: Faith vs. Courage

- Courage is the natural ability to face danger or difficulty and can exist without faith.
- Faith is trust and reliance on God and His Word, which produces genuine courage to do the impossible.

May the Lord bless you as you grow in faith and courage through His Word!

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