

Steve Whitacre
SESSION 1 | COURAGE DEFINED, PART 1

I. INTRODUCTION

II. DEFINING COURAGE

- **Short Version**
 - Christian courage is confident obedience to the Lord in the face of fearsome circumstances.

- **Long Version**
 - Christian courage is the virtue of confident obedience to the Lord, with conviction and discernment, in the face of adversity, risk, or sacrifice required by fearsome circumstances.

- “What we suffer from today is humility in the wrong place. Modesty has moved from the organ of ambition and settled upon the organ of conviction, where it was never meant to be. A man was meant to be doubtful about himself, but undoubting about the truth; this has been exactly reversed. We are on the road to producing a race of men too mentally modest to believe in the multiplication table.” (G. K. Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*)

III. COURAGE IN THE BIBLE

- **Courage in the Old Testament**

- “The LORD has said to me, ‘You shall not go over this Jordan.’ The LORD your God himself will go over before you... **“Be strong and courageous.** Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.” Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, **“Be strong and courageous,** for you shall go with this people into the land that the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.” (Deuteronomy 31:2–3; 6–8)

- **Courage in the New Testament**

- 1 For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, 3 if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. 4 For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 6 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. (2 Corinthians 5:1–10)

IV. CONCLUSION

- “Sometimes standing against evil is more important than defeating it. The greatest heroes stand because it is right to do so, not because they believe they

will walk away with their lives. Such selfless courage is a victory in itself.” N. D. Wilson, *Dandelion Fire*, 173.