

# *From the Heart of The Pastor*

***Be strong and let your heart take courage,  
All you who hope in the Lord.***

**Psalm 31:24**



Greetings in the glorious Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

No matter what time you receive and review this message, this is the morning, afternoon, or evening the Lord has made. I encourage each of you to rejoice and be glad in it.

None of us can deny that our lives are being changed as each day comes and goes. It requires more courage for us to acknowledge the common burdens we bear all around the world.

However, addressing the challenges we face requires all the courage we have. When the psalmist penned the words of **Psalm 32:14**, he was inspired to remind us that our Hope is strengthened, sustained, and secured by the courage we choose to invest in what we know to be certain.

Courage is the force of confidence that promotes the exercise of our Faith. Confidence assures our courage, that acting upon what is known will deliver certain results. We have every reason to rejoice in this truth when we consider the words of **Numbers 23:19**. We are informed, ***“God is not a man, that he should lie; Neither the son of man, that he should repent: Hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”*** These are words of assurance to us that God is a God of His Word. The potency of this assurance is enough for us to both address and act upon everything He permits to enter the arena of our lives.



God, by nature, neither organizes, nor does he orchestrate anything that would compromise what is right. Why? Because He is Righteous. Righteousness guarantees that the destination for everything God permits or prevents is right.

Right denotes that which will serve the good pleasure of His will for all those who love Him and are called according to His Purpose. This is the truth we celebrate every time we consider the words of **Romans 8:28** which says, <sup>28</sup> *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

This truth cannot be altered by the circumstances emanating out of the Seasons of Life. Yes, throughout every season that **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8** speaks of, none of these ordained and orchestrated by God leads to anything less than good for those who love the Lord and are the called according to His Purpose. Hallelujah!!!

With this truth in mind, we must maintain our resolve to walk and live by Faith. We must do so, especially amid the changes resulting from the challenges confronting us in our current day.

This will require courage, which in any context of application is never automatic. Courage is the conscious choice to act upon what we know needs to be rightly addressed and responsibly resolved.

The challenge to exercise courage lies in the vulnerable place of feeling that we are not ready to address, act upon, or act against what we know we have the ability to resolve. What we must realize is that the primary assignment of courage is to promote the exercise of our Faith in the fact that God has prepared us to conquer matters in ways that we could never be prepared for in and of ourselves. In His infinite wisdom, God has prepared us to contend with and ultimately conquer everything confronting us amid every season of life. We just have to remind ourselves as the seasons come and go that we only partially see what God has seen completely. We must remind ourselves that in everything he permits, God causes all things to work together for the good of those who love Him.



We must remind ourselves that God will permit nothing and will prevent everything from working against the good pleasure of His will for our lives.

We must remind ourselves, *“God is our Refuge and Strength, A very Present Help in trouble.”* (Psalm 46:10) We must remind ourselves, *“Those who dwell in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the Shadow of the Almighty.”*

We must remind ourselves, *“The Lord is our Keeper. The Lord is our Shade upon our right hand. The sun shall not smite us by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve us from all evil. He shall preserve our souls. The Lord shall preserve our going out and our coming in from this time forth and even for evermore.”*

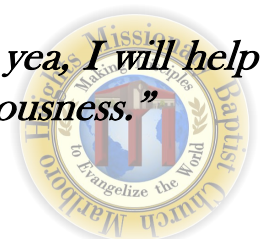
There is nothing God will permit to confront us that He has not prepared us to conquer!

He assures us of this truth in the words of Isaiah 54:17 by saying, *“No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; And every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.”*

In calculating His providential plan for His people with meticulous measure, He assures us there is no wilderness we will ever experience where we are left to wonder about His intentions. And there is no flame of fire we may face through trials where we have to fret or fear. We are assured that the Omniscience in His Omnipresence will direct the course of His Omnipotent intentions to preserve the redeemed.

Isaiah 41:10 affirms this truth in the words, *“Fear thou not; for I am with thee:*

*Be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; Yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”*



Therefore, I encourage each of us to maintain the hope we have been given without expiration. Although multiple changes keep taking place due to the innumerable challenges stemming from COVID-19, remember the One who remains the same yesterday, today and forevermore. He is as Sovereign as He is Faithful, as Loving as He is Merciful, and as Gracious as He is Eternal!

As we confront to conquer the days before us together, I will conclude this message with the fitting words, “*Wait on the LORD: Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: Wait, I say, on the LORD.*” (Psalm 27:14)

From the Heart of Your Pastor,

*Shaun L. Moton*

