

# Courage in Trials

My attitude is one of courageous joy in and through all of life's trials. When trials come my way I will not resent them as intruders, rather I will welcome them as friends. I choose to have courageous joy in the midst of trials because it is a healthier alternative than anger or blame. It's not that I am living in anticipation of trials, rather courageous joy during trials. This is based on my confident outcome, knowing God, my loving Heavenly Father, will use every trial to help me grow. My attitude in every circumstance and trial is one of courageous joy, because my life is centered on God and His presence: God-oriented rather than event-oriented.

Courageous joy is not based on an emotion; I am not simply pretending to be happy and heroic or putting on a good front. Courageous joy is honest, allowing me to admit hurt and recognize suffering, even willingly participate in it. It is a contentment that comes from realizing nothing can separate me from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus my Lord.

My attitude is one of courageous joy in and through all of life's trials. Courageous joy is more decision than feeling. It is choosing to live above my feelings, yet never denying them. With the courageous joy of the Lord I have a deep sense of well-being even in times of sorrow, tears, anger or pain. I will not let pain or struggles steal the joy of growth, insight, depth and dependency on God. Instead I will trust God for the benefits that will surely come as a result of my trials.

Where do these trials come from? They may come from hardships out of my control or from a struggle within. They may come in a moment when I am least prepared and certain they will never come. Trials may be difficult situations that test my faith such as: persecution, a complicated moral choice or a tragedy. The journey of life is full of such trials and to merely endure them is not enough, for this is a process God uses to develop complete maturity in me. I will neither avoid trials that come my way nor will I look for them to practice endurance.

Once a trial is upon me I will follow the example of Jesus, *"Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne"* (Hebrews 12:2 NLT). Without the proper attitude, all trials have the potential to steal my joy and my strength; therefore my attitude is one of courageous joy in and through all of life's trials.

## Study: Courage in Trials

**Day 1:** Fine Tuned Through Trials - *1 Peter 1:3-7* (Page 934); *Genesis 22:1-12* (Page 17)

**Day 2:** Comfort that Abounds - *2 Corinthians 1:3-7* (Page 882); *Psalms 71:20-24* (Page 445)

**Day 3:** Restoration After Hardships - *2 Corinthians 4:7-18* (Page 884); *Psalms 66:10-12*  
(Page 442)

**Day 4:** Firm Foundations Remain - *Luke 6:47-49* (Page 787); *Proverbs 10:25* (Page 487)

**Day 5:** God Stays and Sustains - *Mark 4:35-41* (Page 764); *Deuteronomy 31:6* (Page 163)

**Day 6:** Do not let Your Heart be Troubled - *John 14:1-7* (Page 823); *Psalms 116:3-9*  
(Page 467)

**Day 7:** Courage and Hope - *John 16:31-33* (Page 825); *Romans 5:3-5* (Page 860);  
*Proverbs 29:25* (Page 502). Read the *Daily Reading* once again and highlight things that stand out. Answer the three Life Transformation questions for growth in this area. Take time to learn the memory verse.

**Memory Verse:** Hebrews 12:2 *"We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne."*  
Hebrews 12:2

### Life Transformation Questions:

1. As you read the *Daily Reading*, what stood out and why?
2. What action will you take to apply this truth? Be specific.
3. What areas of your life will benefit from this action? How and why?