

*“Wait on the LORD: be of **good courage**, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.” Psalms 27:14no3 KJV*



A gambler maintains "bad" courage; going against the odds until penniless. An addict's courage to commit crime is driven by insatiable lust for the next fix; be it booze, drugs, money, or another physical pleasure. I do not maintain physical pleasure is wrong, but when desire eclipses obedience to God's Word it is sin. I enjoy food, back rubs, or hot showers as well as any, but I don't abandon Truth to acquire them. The "*good courage*" to ignore carnal impulse comes from the indwelling Holy Spirit of God who took up residence with me the day I cried for mercy and forgiveness from the gracious Lord Jesus Christ. "*If God be for [me, none] can be against me!*" Good courage is not founded upon suppositions, feelings, or wishful thinking, nor is it driven by voracious carnal desire. It is founded in real experience and deliverance with the unseen, but not unknown, power that sustains the very existence of the created universe and driven by faith. God "*hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son.*" Light bulbs last longer, money goes further, appliances keep working, and while I do not live in the "lap of luxury," I rest peacefully without a care as the God "*who never slumbers*" watches over my and mine's earthly sojourn. I need not fear any threat, be it bill collector or thief, because I contentedly reside in the "*secret place of the Most High!*" From that fortress of fellowship I will never depart for my "*life is hid with Christ in God and no man can pluck [me] out of His hand.*" The Elysian Fields of Faithful Promise ever grace my gaze as I walk hand in hand with the Light of Life! Satan's Serengeti holds no threat for the faithful. Its minions fearfully cower at Our Lord's slightest whisper. Though the Roarer himself accosts me, I need not run nor hide for "**I AM**" stands beside me. "*A thousand shall fall at [my] side, and ten thousand at [my] right hand; but it shall not come nigh [me].*" Good courage completely trusts God!

Courage to rise above the foe,
Courage to conquer any woe,
Courage to bravely onward go,
Given me by the LORD I know! ~CGP

We only fret and fear when we stop listening and talking to our Lord Jesus. (Meditation and prayer) "*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Pray without ceasing.*" Suffering is part of walking with Christ, but not fretting nor fearfulness. "*Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*" He has gone before and knows the way. "*Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*" We need only "*be of good courage.*"

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2 KJV