



LET'S VISIT

A Publication of the Center Church of Christ
110 Hurst Street Center, Texas 75935

Volume 12

Number 33

August 17, 2025

MUSINGS ABOUT COURAGE

John Fox lived during the 1500's. He wrote the interesting book, "Fox's Book of Martyrs". It contains accounts of the suffering of early Christians. During the early days of the church, Christians often faced persecution. Some were killed with the sword, others were burned at the stake. Some were fed to wild beasts in the arena. In all of these cases, Christianity required great courage. Open, obvious courage. To be sure, these early Christians could have escaped their fate. They only had to renounce their faith in Christ. Yet, because of their great faith and courage they accepted death.

The Bible tells of the martyrdom of Stephen in Acts chapter 7. James was the first of the Apostles put to death in Acts 14. According to secular history, John is the only apostle who did not suffer a violent death. Paul even records a brief but comprehensive summary of the hardships he faced in II Corinthians 11:24-27. Later he would tell young Timothy that all who lived Godly in Christ Jesus would suffer persecution.

Does this mean if we are faithful today, we can expect to be martyred? I don't think so in this country – at least not yet. Does it mean if we are faithful today we will face persecution? Does it mean we will be called upon to show our courage? I think it does.

It is not likely we will be beheaded or burned at the stake. I don't foresee us being dropped into a cauldron of boiling oil. Neither do I envision us being fed to wild beasts. Yet, it is likely each of us will be subjected to strong and powerful temptations and pressures. These will constitute our persecutions. They will call for our courage. They often will call for quiet courage.

All of us are aware life has many hurtful influences and pressures. Social pressure is often overwhelming in our lives. Following the crowd is almost universal. Stepping out of the crowd and standing alone when the crowd is moving in the wrong direction requires courage, and this is not a courage that comes easily.

Often there are economic pressures around us. When one's job is at stake, it is easy to forget principles and convictions. Sometimes little compromises are made to continue to live as we have become accustomed to living. There are also physical pressures within man himself. These appetites or drives are described in the Bible as the "lust of the flesh". It takes courage to curb these basic human drives. Especially when those around us are freely indulging in the sins of the flesh. It is not as spectacular as the persecutions of the early Christians, but the problems of our day are nonetheless powerful. They require courage, but a different kind of courage.

When the crowd around us is enjoying the pleasures of sin, there is a definite need for courage and remaining strong. It is unrealistic to deny there is pleasure in sin. Sin is often very enticing, offering momentary satisfaction and very real enjoyments. To be sure, Hebrews 11:25 speaks of the pleasures of

(Continued on page 2)

In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 – Shreveport – 7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239 – 6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 – 6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



When The Drought Comes

For The Pantry. . .

August 17 – Chili (No Beans)

Offering – August 10, 2025 . . \$ 2,889.00

The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"

Musings About Courage – continued from page 1

sin. That passage points out that they are only temporary and fleeting. In the long ago, Moses had the insight to see that earthly, sinful pleasures were only for a moment. He had the strength of character to decide for the long view. When we turn to the Old Testament, we read of the same kind of courage in the life of Joseph when he refused the advances of Potiphar's wife. Moses, Joseph, Daniel and others displayed the kind of courage that is needed in our day and time.

Courage remains true to one's convictions. Courage is what causes us to remain true when others are compromising. Courage quietly tells the truth when others play fast and loose with it. Courage quietly motivates a day's work for a day's pay.

It takes quiet courage to be faithful in many situations. To be faithful in church attendance, bible reading and offering prayer before meals takes quiet courage. It is quiet courage that enables us to be faithful in the basic elements of the Christian faith.

Often, in the disappointments of life is when we find it hardest to have courage. Disappointment comes to every life. When we face an incurable disease or even the decline of health through advancing years, courage is needed to maintain our equilibrium and continue to do our best. In the face

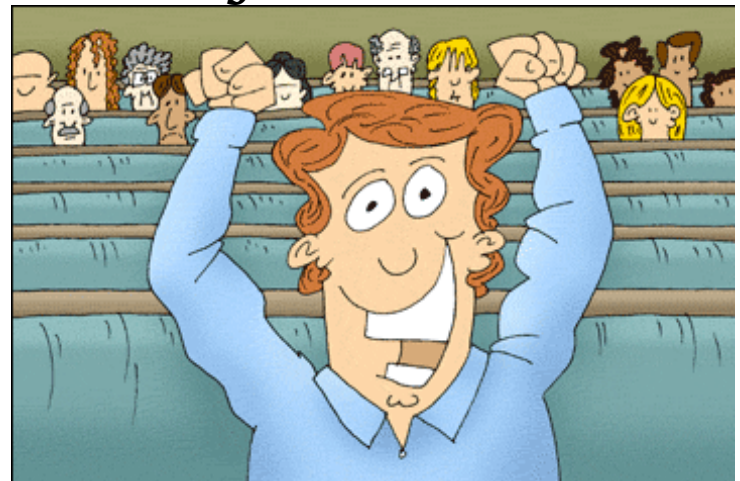
of the loss of a loved one there is another great call for quiet courage. When a beloved companion, or parent, or child is taken in death, there is often the temptation to give up. Yet, God wants us to continue to live and work.

In those times, spiritual strength is the only answer. When we lose a job or possessions we find the need for inner strength, for courage. When we find that someone whom we have loved and trusted has been unfaithful to that we have committed to their care, there is a need for inner strength. Often, these are not matters we can discuss with others. They are fields of battle on which we must fight alone. Some of the greatest examples of courage are unknown except in the heart of the one who has waged the battle.

When you want to see quiet courage, you look to the courage of Jesus. Jesus had the strength and courage to live and die so that we might have salvation. He prayed, "Father, not my will but thine be done." We need that same kind of courage to live for him.

tp

On The Lighter Side. . .



BEING MUCH MORE OF A CONCERT-GOER THAN A CHURCH-GOER, TOM FOUND HIMSELF VOTED "MOST EXCITED TO SIT IN THE FRONT ROW ... EVER"

Courage isn't the absence of fear – it's the strength to keep going when you are scared.

Richard Fox



September 7, 2025

Put this date on your calendar, make your plans to be here and invite ALL your family and friends to come and join us for worship and lunch!

Let's make this the greatest "Friends and Family Day" in the history of the Center Church of Christ!

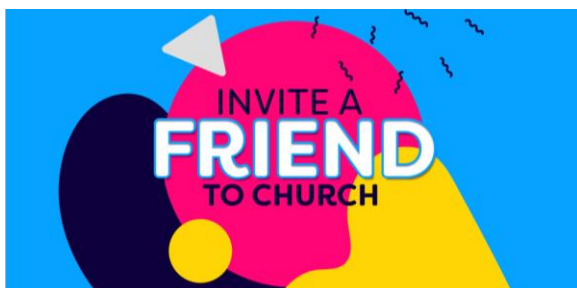
Hospitality group 3 will be in charge of this luncheon. The members of that group are: LaJuan Baugh, Sheri Burgay, Liela Klein, Lieza Klein, Tiffanee Klein and Trish Lout.

* * * * *

Communion Preparation for August
Manny & Brittany Ortiz



Make your plans to join us for our next Wednesday night fellowship meal on August 27th. We will share a meal together and then spend the time singing gospel songs. We hope you will be here.



OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Martha Jean Golden, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Tami Abernathy (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) Richard Barbee (Gene Bradshaw's nephew) David Bissett (Mike O'Brien's brother in law, cancer) Dwayne Brister (Cissy Amos' cousin) Jane Adams Burkhalter (Diedra Hughes' cousin) Debra Clifton (friend of LaResa Livingston) Coleen Dickerson (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) Leta Dozier (Ryan Perkins' grandmother) Hugh and Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) Joyce Fontenot (Debra Pate's mother) Emily Heflin (Mike Bostick's niece recovering from surgery) Suzi Hogan (Mike Bostick's sister-in-law) Ted Holt (former member of this congregation) Wynell Lawson (Diedra Hughes' aunt) Debbie Lynn (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) Norma Magby (Melonie Bradshaw's mother) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Lane O'Brien (Mike and Jana's son) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle); Heather Simmons Stewart (Friend of Cissy Amos) cancer; J. C. Tate & Pat Tate (Jana O'Brien's father and mother) Calvin Turner (Norma Perkins Uncle) Norman Turner (Norma Perkins' father) Tyson Turner (Norma Perkins' cousin) Max Windham (Friend of LaResa Livingston) additional cancer treatments.

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!

Make a note of the dates of these activities on the Calendar for 2025.

December 7, 2025 – No Excuse Sunday
December 21, 2025 – Annual Christmas Party

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!



Across The Preacher's Desk

It was Mark Twain who said, "They did not know it was impossible, so they did it". When you give that some thought, it is a very inspirational concept. It conjures up thoughts of perseverance, courage and accomplishment. It is amazing to think how many interesting and worthwhile things most of us could do, if we did not put mental handcuffs on ourselves.

When we are young, we are filled with dreams of the future, and of the idea of attaining great things in this life. Sometimes, failures are made, and after a number of failures, we become permanently discouraged, we become cynical and decide that we cannot really do anything worthwhile after all. And so it is, as we grow older, the lives of the vast majority are filled with "it can't be done". Along with the statement of impossibility is a myriad of excuses for why it cannot be done.

How long has it been since you took stock of yourself? Are you bound down by the idea that you cannot accomplish those things you need to accomplish?

It is time for us to realize that with the help of the Lord, anything can be done! It was Paul who wrote, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:13) We need to eliminate from our vocabulary the expression "It can't be done" !

it's something to think about.....tbp

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
55 in '25!**