

**MESSAGE SUMMARY**

**Big Idea:** Courage is trusting God enough to take your next step.

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**MAIN POINTS**

1. **Courage to Worship (Romans 12:1–2)**
  - Worship isn't just singing; it's surrendering.
  - *Psalm 27:1* reminds us that we have nothing to fear because God is our light, salvation, and stronghold.
2. **Courage to Serve (Romans 12:3–8)**
  - God has given every believer spiritual gifts to be used for His glory and the good of others.
  - Serving takes courage because it requires humility, faith, and action.
  - *Galatians 5:13* calls us to serve one another in love.
3. **Courage to Care (Romans 12:9–13)**
  - Authentic love is risky; it means putting others first and being vulnerable.
  - *Colossians 3:14* shows that love binds everything together in perfect harmony.
4. **Courage to Persevere (Romans 12:14–21)**
  - True courage is not just starting well but remaining faithful, even when life is hard.
  - *Galatians 6:9* encourages us not to grow weary in doing good.

**Bonus Step of Courage:** The Courage to Lead—helping others follow Jesus by modeling faith and obedience.

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**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. **Why does it take courage to serve others with our gifts? (Romans 12:6–8)**  
Possible Answer: Serving requires humility and vulnerability, because using our gifts may stretch us, open us to criticism, or push us outside our comfort zone. (*1 Peter 4:10*, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”)
2. **What are practical ways we can show authentic love and care for one another in our group or church family? (Romans 12:9–13)**  
Possible Answer: By being intentional in encouragement, showing hospitality, helping with needs, committing to pray for each other and using our spiritual gifts. (*John 13:34–35*, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”)
3. **How do we keep persevering in faith in opposition, temptation, or discouragement? (Romans 12:21)**  
Possible Answer: By keeping our eyes on Christ, staying rooted in God’s Word, and surrounding ourselves with encouraging believers. (*Hebrews 12:1–2* – “Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus.”)

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**GOSPEL CONNECTION**

*Romans 12* calls us to courageous steps of worship, service, care, and perseverance. But none of these are possible in our own strength. Abraham was “fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised” (*Romans 4:20–21*). In the same way, our courage flows from trusting in Jesus who surrendered His life for us, who came not to be served but to serve, who loved us to the cross, and who persevered to victory over sin and death. Believe in Jesus for everything, your forgiveness, your identity, your courage, and your future. The gospel frees us from fear and equips us to take the next courageous step.

## DAILY DEVOTIONS

### Monday: The Courage to Worship

**Key Verse:** Romans 12:1, *"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."*

**Reflection:** True worship is more than songs we sing; it's surrendering our whole lives to God. Courage in worship means laying down our desires, fears, and control, and trusting God's will above our own.

**Application Question:** What area of your life do you find hardest to surrender to God?

**Possible Answer:** My future plans, because I want certainty, but courage means trusting God's timing and direction.

**Prayer Response:** Lord, I surrender my life to You as a living sacrifice. Give me the courage to trust You with every part of my life, my plans, my choices, and my future. In Jesus' name, Amen. (Sources: Romans 12:1; Psalm 27:1; Luke 9:23)

### Tuesday: The Courage to Serve

**Key Verse:** Romans 12:6, *"Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them."*

**Reflection:** God has given each believer unique gifts. Courage to serve means stepping out of comfort zones and using those gifts to bless others. Serving may feel risky, but it's how the church flourishes.

**Application Question:** Where is God asking you to use your gifts to serve others?

**Possible Answer:** In children's ministry, because I love teaching but have been hesitant to commit.

**Prayer Response:** Father, thank You for giving me gifts by Your grace. Help me use them boldly to serve others in love, not holding back but stepping out in faith. In Jesus' name, Amen. (Sources: Romans 12:6–8; Galatians 5:13; 1 Peter 4:10.)

### Wednesday: The Courage to Care

**Key Verse:** Romans 12:10, *"Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."*

**Reflection:** Real love is courageous because it makes us vulnerable. To care for others with Christ-like love means putting their needs before our own and choosing unity over division.

**Application Question:** What is one practical way you can show authentic love this week?

**Possible Answer:** Writing an encouraging note to a struggling friend and praying for them consistently.

**Prayer Response:** Jesus, You loved me first and showed me what real love looks like. Give me the courage to care deeply for others, even when it's inconvenient or costly. In Jesus' name, Amen. (Sources: Romans 12:9–13; Colossians 3:14; John 13:34–35.)

### Thursday: The Courage to Persevere

**Key Verse:** Romans 12:21, *"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."*

**Reflection:** Perseverance is courage over time. It means standing strong in faith despite trials, disappointments, or opposition. God strengthens us to overcome evil with good, reminding us that faithfulness bears fruit in His time.

**Application Question:** Where do you need endurance to keep going in faith?

**Possible Answer:** In prayer for a family member who has not yet come to Christ, even though it feels discouraging.

**Prayer Response:** Lord, help me not to grow weary in doing good. Strengthen me to stand firm, trusting that You are at work even when I don't see results. In Jesus' name, Amen. (Sources: Romans 12:14–21; Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 12:1–2.)

### Friday: The Courage to Lead

**Key Verse:** Joshua 1:9, *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*

**Reflection:** Leadership in the kingdom isn't about position; it's about example. Courage to lead means influencing others by faithfully following Jesus yourself. God calls us to take steps of courage but also to help others take theirs.

**Application Question:** Who is one person you can encourage to take a step of courage in their faith?

**Possible Answer:** A friend who feels nervous about joining a small group; I can invite and go with them.

**Prayer Response:** God, give me courage to lead by example. Help me point others to Jesus and encourage them to take bold steps of faith with You. In Jesus' name, Amen. (Sources: Romans 4:20–21; Romans 12; Joshua 1:9; 1 Corinthians 11:1.)