

COURAGEOUS CONVICTION AND FAITH-FILLED CONFIDENCE

Daniel 6 | September 4, 2022

1. Courageous Conviction

1 Peter 5:8 *Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

Colossians 3:15 *And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body.*

Psalms 119:165 *Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.*

Philippians 4:6-7 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

What do we do when it's not clear-cut?

- We need to communicate to the world that God is the highest authority in our lives.
- We need to communicate to the world that our Christian faith changes how we live.
- We need to communicate to the world that we are not ashamed of Christ.

2. Faith-filled Confidence

Hebrews 11:32-34

1 Peter 1:6-7

Daniel 4:35 *all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing.*

1 Peter 3:14-15 *Even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy.*

Isaiah 8:12-13 *Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. But the Lord of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.*

Isaiah 51:12 *I, I am he who comforts you; who are you that you are afraid of man who dies, of the son of man who is made like grass?*

a. I can have faith-filled confidence because my God lives.

Matthew 27:64-66 *“Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.*

Daniel 3:28 *Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.*

b. I can have faith-filled confidence because my God is here.

Isaiah 41:10 *Fear not, for I am with you.*

c. I can have faith-filled confidence because my God saves.

Nothing can touch us until God's purposes are completed in our lives, and when His purposes are completed, He will deliver us safely to our eternal home.

d. I can have faith-filled confidence because my God does what He wants.

Daniel 4:35

Psalm 118:9 *It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.*

Psalm 146:3 *Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.*

Matthew 10:28 *Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Luke 12:4-5 *“I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!”*

“As the culture has crossed from what now seems by comparison garden-variety moral depravity into a kind of mass psychosis, Christians are asking, “OK ... now what?” How do you answer that question?”

“First, remember that we know how the story ends: Christ and His Church will win. That does not mean my congregation or my denomination, still less my nation, will win. But it does mean that Christ will bring all His own home. Second, we need therefore to think long-term. If we think that the success of Christ does depend on us and should be fulfilled by a week from Wednesday through our efforts, we are setting ourselves up for despair. Third, focus on your family and your church. Be a strong community in the present. That is surely a more effective witness than any argument, let alone a silly tweet. Love the people and the place in which the Lord has set you, do the work he has given you to do, and trust Him for the rest.”

(“A chat with Carl Trueman” by Lynn Vincent in *World* August 27, 2022)

“Whenever Satan besieges us on every side, and the wicked lay snares for us, and we are attacked by the fierceness of wild beasts, may we remain safe under thy protection, and even if we have to undergo a hundred deaths, may we learn to live and die to thee, and may thy name be glorified in us, through Christ our Lord.” (John Calvin, *Daniel: A Geneva Series Commentary*, 356)