"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed,
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

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#### **Live in Moral Courage**

- ♦ Moral courage is the fruits of faith.
- ♦ Moral courage is a virtue that Jesus taught His disciples.
- ♦ Moral courage will be your anchor in these challenging times.
- ◆ Your moral courage will help others to turn to faith in God and choose genuine repentance.
- ◆ Moral courage will strengthen your own faith to be a beacon of faith, hope and love to others.

### **Coming Before Lord God Adonai**

Dear Heavenly Father, I come before You today that You may bear witness to my commitment to grow and deepen in moral courage, to be an anchor in these tumultuous times, to model the shalom peace of Christ Jesus and to bring others to Your heart.

#### God is the Source of My Moral Courage.

- ◆ Dear Lord God, true moral courage does not come from mind, will or ego. It comes from yielding to your heart, surrendering and submitting to your will, trusting completely in You. Then You fill me with your presence and your Spirit, which deepens moral courage as the fabric of my character.
- ◆ So I take hold of Proverbs 3:5-6 and trust in You Lord God with all of my heart and lean not on my own understanding; in all my ways I submit to You, and know that You will make my paths straight.

- ✦ Heavenly Father, I know that You are my salvation; therefore I will trust and not be afraid. You yourself Lord God, are my strength and my defense, according to Isaiah 12:2.
- ◆ Dear Father God, not only are You the source of my moral courage, You are the reason for it, as I know You always have my back; as Deuteronomy 20:4 affirms: "For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory."
- ◆ From Isaiah 41:10, I shall not fear, for YOU are with me; I shall not be dismayed, for YOU are my God. I know You will strengthen me and help me; You Lord God will uphold me with your righteous right hand.
- ◆ Indeed, Jeremiah 32:17 proclaims: "Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you."
- ◆ Father God, the power source of moral courage is Your love, and my knowing and experiencing your love. In that love is my trust in You. Because I truly trust in You, I know that You have my back. I know that if You send me out on a mission, You will ensure its success. As Romans 8:35, 37-39 say: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?" Indeed, "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." THIS, Your precious Word, is the holy oil of my moral courage!

### Moral Courage is the Fruit of Faith.

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, my trust in You IS my faith in You, and this faith is what builds moral courage within me. Truly, moral courage is the fruit of having faith in You.
- ◆ For Joshua 1:9 encourages me: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

- ◆ For 1 Corinthians 16:13 exhorts: "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong."
- ◆ Lord God, I understand that true faith has the element of waiting on You, waiting on the Lord, for when and how to act, when to receive answers, solutions or victories. I find strength and a peaceful kind of courage in waiting on You in the midst of trials and challenges; as your Word in Psalm 31:24 exhorts: "Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!"
- ◆ Exodus 14:14 affirms this: "The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."
- ◆ Indeed Father God, from your Word Psalm 56:3-4, "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In You, whose word I praise, in You Lord God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"

### Jesus Taught Us the Virtue of Moral Courage.

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, Your Son Jesus Yeshua taught and encouraged us to possess moral courage. He gave us His peace, His shalom, from which I know I can always draw, as He spoke in John 4:27, "Peace I leave you, My peace I give you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor fearful." I drink from this shalom to fortify my moral courage.
- ★ Father God, Jesus teaches us that your Spirit will speak through us, as we yield to Him to do so, so that I need not fear difficult situations or conversations. In Matthew 10:16&17, 19&20 He instructs: "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Be on your guard...do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." I commit to continually yielding to the Holy Spirit, that my own thoughts, concerns and agendas shall be set aside, and only Yours will prevail Lord God.
- ◆ Lord God, I am encouraged by 1 Corinthians 10:13 which says: "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." Thank you Father God, that as I allow my faith to go before me in situations, as I allow my faith to override my own fears and desires, You will make a way through situations in YOUR will and way.

◆ Thank you Lord God, for not giving me a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline, according to 2 Timothy 1:7.

#### Moral Courage is an Anchor.

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, I now understand that moral courage is truly an anchor in this tumultuous world. That is because my moral courage is anchored in You, who is unmovable.
- ◆ I proclaim Ephesians 6:10-18 as my spiritual calisthenics, anchoring moral courage more deeply into my very being: I shall be strong in the Lord and in Your mighty power. I put on the full armor of God, so that I can take my stand against the devil's schemes. For my struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. I therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, I am able to stand my ground, and after I have done everything, to stand. I stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around my waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with my feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, I take up the shield of faith, with which I shall extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. I take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And I pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, I shall be alert and always keep praying for all the Lord's people.
- ◆ YOU Lord God, are my light and my salvation whom shall I fear? You Lord God are the stronghold of my life of whom shall I be afraid?, according to Psalm 27:1.
- ◆ Heavenly Father Psalm 18:1-2 proclaims You are my anchor: "I love you, LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."

#### Moral Courage Helps Others Turn to God.

◆ Dear Heavenly Father, we understand from Philippians 4:12 that moral fiber is strengthened not by always prospering, but by how we overcome adversities and how steady we remain regardless of outer circumstances; as Apostle Paul

expresses: "I know how to get along with little, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need."

- ◆ Lord God, I take hold of and commit to Philippians 1:27-28, to stand firm in one spirit with brethren in the Faith, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; without being frightened in any way by those who oppose us. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that we will be saved, and that by God.
- ◆ Dear Lord God, it is often true that when people witness someone moving through an adversity with dignity, triumphing over evil, victories coming so obviously not from their own might but by your grace and love, it inspires others to turn to You. And so now 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 has new meaning: "But He (the Lord Jesus) said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in (your) weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." When I am weak, then the power of Christ Jesus is capable of working through me, for the Glory of God to be revealed.

### Possessing Moral Courage Makes You a Beacon of Faith, Hope and Love.

- ◆ Lord God, I understand that as I allow Christ Jesus to live through me as Philippians 4:13 exhorts, I am then an example of His faith, hope and love: "I can do all this through him who gives me strength."
- ✦ Heavenly Father, I commit to standing strong in the knowing that truly You will not forsake us, as Deuteronomy 31:6 assures: "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."
- ◆ Therefore, according to 2 Timothy 1:8-9, I shall not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of being His prisoner, but suffer for the Gospel according to the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was granted to us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.

♦ We understand Heavenly Father, that You work through us to overcome this world in order to be a beacon of faith, hope and Your love for others in this world. Thank you Father God.

#### The Fruits of Moral Courage.

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, I understand that some of the fruits of possessing moral courage are inner strength and peace; as Psalm 29:11 says, "The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace."
- ◆ Truly Lord God, Your first holy commandment becomes both the food and the fruit of moral courage: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The more that I express my love for You, the more moral courage I possess, and the more moral courage I possess, the greater I am capable of loving You with all that I am.
- ✦ Heavenly Father, Psalm 28:7-8 expresses some of the fruits of moral courage that I may enjoy inner joy, strength, protection and holy assistance: "The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and He helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise Him. The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for His anointed one." Selah!

#### We are Made to Overcome.

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, even tho it often seems the opposite, You truly have made me to overcome, as You have made me in your image. If I truly believe that I am made in your image, then I do believe and have faith that You have built me to overcome the upheaval and challenges of this world. I take hold of all of the events, images and promises that your Incarnate Son Jesus manifested, as food for cultivating moral courage and the ability to overcome.
- ◆ For You Lord God, have given us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and selfcontrol, according to 2 Timothy 1:7.
- ◆ I proclaim Habakkuk 3:19, that the Sovereign LORD is my strength; He makes my feet like the feet of a deer, He enables me to tread on the heights.
- ♦ Indeed, Jesus exhorted in John 16:33 ,"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have

overcome the world." Truly Lord God, if Jesus has overcome this world, it is my destiny as well to overcome this world. For I know that eternal life is my destination and this world is my direct flight to it.

◆ Dear Lord God, moral courage is also to sing praise to You amidst adversities, not just when things are going well or I have received what I want from You. True love expresses itself through thick and thin, as Psalm 59:16 exhorts: "But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble."

#### Prayer for Moral Courage.

- ◆ Precious Blood of Christ Jesus, free me from what is NOT your will!
- ◆ Precious Blood of Christ Jesus, free me from the snares of the devil!
- ◆ Precious Blood of Christ Jesus, send your angelic legions to defend me!
- ◆ Precious Blood of Christ Jesus, fill me with your Holy Spirit!
- ◆ Precious Blood of Christ Jesus, send your commander of the heavenly armies to keep me within the immaculate heart which the devil fears and from which he flees in horror and terror.

# Sealing Prayer:

#### Psalm 28:6-9

"Blessed be the Lord,
Because He has heard the sound of my pleading.
The Lord is my strength and my shield;
My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped;
Therefore my heart triumphs,
And with my song I shall thank Him.
The Lord is our strength,
And He is a refuge of salvation to His anointed.
Save Your people and bless Your inheritance;
Be our shepherd also, and carry us forever.

Amen."

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