

## **SPIRITUAL BRAVERY**

### **Jeremiah 9:2-3**

**Introduction:** If you have ever served our country in one of the branches of the armed forces, then you know what the medals of valor and bravery are for. Acts of heroism during times of danger, emergencies, when a lives are in danger, deeds of worthiness are recognized and medals and citations are given in recognition for such acts of bravery.

Have you ever seen anyone receive recognition for "spiritual" bravery? Do Christians ever display spiritual courage, bravery, valor? It seems that usually Christians are like the people of Israel in the days of Jeremiah in a way in that they can be valiant and courageous in actual war but are spiritually lethargic, lazy, uncaring, even leaving God for some other interest. Not standing for God as they would their country.

### **I. FOR GOD'S TRUTH TO BE DOMINANT, SPIRITUAL BRAVERY IS REQUIRED**

1. God's simplest truth, common justice, equality for all is most difficult to be found today.
2. If God's truth were enforced, then those who are supposed to be enforcing the simplest truths would be persecuted for God's truths ARE NOT being enforced.
3. Christians need to be courageous in displaying God's simple truths and the spiritual truths they say they believe.
  - Christians need to be courageous and profess all God's truths.
    - Christians who act as Christians would receive criticism and harsh treatment from others.
    - Gibeon made an alliance with Israel and the other nations made war on Gibeon for making that alliance.
    - It takes courage to be associated with a true Christian life and truth today.
  - Christians need courage to practice living the Christian life today.
    - Christians' friends often criticize them for not taking part in some of the activities which are against the Christian's beliefs.
    - The Christian needs courage to remain loyal to his/her beliefs.
  - Christians need courage to correct and take action against wrongs.
    - The Christian is not only to avoid evil and untruth, but to take action against it, to speak up, to stand up, just as Jesus would.
    - Consequences always follow whenever untruth or wrong is confronted, such as lawsuits, jail, loss of friends, loss of property, etc.
    - Courage is needed to stand up against wrong.

### **II. THE CHRISTIAN'S DUTY IS TO BE COURAGEOUS AGAINST WRONG AND FOR TRUTH**

1. It is a duty the Christian owes to God.
  - God did not say for the Christian to pick and choose which of God's laws he/she wanted to keep and obey.
  - Christians need to remember WHO they will stand before someday in judgment.

2. It is a duty the Christian owes to his/her neighbor, as well as to God.
  - If the Christian acts like everyone else, how will God be honored in that person's life?  
How will one's neighbors see God in that Christian's life?
  - The Christian should live according to God's laws so that the neighbor can see that God is worthy of being served.
3. It is a duty the Christian owes to him/herself as well as to God.
  - The Christian has made a promise to God.
  - The Christian represents ALL TRUTH AND GOOD.

### **III. CHRISTIAN BRAVERY AND COURAGE MUST BE DISPLAYED IN CERTAIN WAYS**

1. The Christian must display courage patiently and meekly.
  - Not like soldiers in the midst of a battle.
  - By the example of Jesus, using God's Word and the sword and gentleness and love in place of retaliation.
  - What difference if the Christian used the same tactics of war? Such as evil for evil?
2. The Christian must display courage firmly and steadily.
  - Obedience and loyalty to the Lord is the POINT.
  - Daniel was courageous but not in a war-like manner but gentle and firm in his actions against wrong and untruth and his nation came to know God.
  - Paul endured more than any other Christian of his time except our Lord, and Paul never once raised a hand in anger, nor even when he was stoned, beaten, or jailed. He was courageous, valient but gentle and patient and because of his courageousness for Jesus, millions have come to know Jesus as their Savior.
  - The Christian can resist evil and wrong and at the same time make friends and bring people to the Lord Jesus.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. A word of Explanation and Caution:
  - Christian courage is not dishonoring one's parents or violating the laws of man without divine approval. It is not running ruff shod over the rights of others. It is not self-appointed do-gooding.
2. A word of Encouragement:
  - The Christian need never fear of what to say or do when confronting evil and wrong IF he/she is led by the Holy Spirit. Courage will come.
  - Unlike war heros and other heros, a few brave and courageous among the masses, EVERY Christian must be brave, courageous and valient in standing for truth and right, for the Holy Spirit will give that which is needed for that moment.
3. Christian! Take your stand for God and His Truths and don't back down!