

*For my children: Kayla, David, Megan, and Jenna.*

*You have taught me much about courage.*

*It is a privilege to be your mom.*

*For my husband: Lee.*

*You are my rock, truth-teller, and best friend.*

*It is a blessing doing life with you.*

*For my Lord and Savior: You are my eternal Rock.*

*I am nothing without You.*

*All praise and glory be unto Your name.*

# Contents

<b>Courageous Faith Power Statements</b> .....	5
<b>Courageous Faith Memory Verses</b> .....	6
<b>Preface</b> .....	7
<b>Chapter One: A Courageous Hold: Convinced</b> .....	9
<b>Chapter Two: A Courageous Foundation</b> .....	20
<b>Chapter Three: A Courageous Pouring: Honest</b> .....	29
<b>Chapter Four: A Courageous Surrender</b> .....	40
<b>Chapter Five: A Courageous Leaning: Dependent</b> .....	50
<b>Chapter Six: A Courageous Humility</b> .....	60
<b>Chapter Seven: A Courageous Walk: Obedient</b> .....	69
<b>Chapter Eight: A Courageous Discipline: Attentive</b> .....	83
<b>Chapter Nine: A Courageous Turning: Remembering</b> .....	98
<b>Chapter Ten: A Courageous Vision: Kingdom Eyes</b> .....	113
<b>Chapter Eleven: A Courageous Testimony: My Story/His Story</b> .....	124
<b>Worship the Lord</b> .....	127

# Courageous Faith

## POWER STATEMENTS

### Chapters One and Two:

- I refuse to be overcome by my circumstances or controlled by my emotions.
- Instead I choose to live my life fully **convinced** that God's character is unchanging, His promises are unfailing, and my eternal hope in Jesus Christ will never disappoint.

### Chapters Three and Four:

- I refuse to pretend with God.
- Instead I choose to be **honest** about my sin, my hurts, my weaknesses, and my need for God's forgiveness, help, and healing.

### Chapters Five and Six:

- I refuse to be self-sufficient, trusting in my own plans and strength.
- Instead I choose to be **dependent** on the Lord, trusting Him to meet all my needs and guide my ways.

### Chapter Seven:

- I refuse to walk in willful disobedience.
- Instead I choose to be **obedient** to my Lord, surrendering my fear, doubt, and worry at the throne of His grace.

### Chapter Eight:

- I refuse to treat the Word of God as an afterthought.
- Instead I choose to be **attentive** to His Word and His voice.

### Chapter Nine:

- I refuse to ignore God's work in my world.
- Instead I choose to practice a lifestyle of **remembering** and celebrating His many acts of faithfulness and love.

### Chapter Ten:

- I refuse to be held captive by an earthly, temporal perspective.
- Instead I choose to have **kingdom eyes** that look beyond the here and now into glory.



“Trust in the  
LORD with all  
your heart.”

6

# Courageous Faith

## MEMORY VERSES

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### Theme Verse:

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6

### Chapters One and Two:

“Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.” Hebrews 10:23

### Chapters Three and Four:

“Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.” Psalm 62:8

### Chapters Five and Six:

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” 2 Corinthians 12:9

### Chapter Seven:

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.” Matthew 16:24, NASB

### Chapter Eight:

“Call to me and I will answer you and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” Jeremiah 33:3, NASB

### Chapter Nine:

“I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds.” Psalm 77:11-12

### Chapter Ten:

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

### Chapter Eleven:

“And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony. Revelation 12:11, NASB

## Preface

My husband, Lee, and I have raised four children. The plans we had for our lives changed dramatically with the news that each of our three daughters was profoundly deaf. Everything changed: our prayers, our parenting, our family dynamics, our focus, our knowledge of special services, special schools, and technology for the deaf. Adding to our challenges were the frequent moves, deployments, and long hours required by Lee's demanding Air Force career as an F-16 pilot. I was drawn to the adventurous life of the military and enjoyed meeting new people, adjusting to new environments, and rising to meet new responsibilities. However, raising four children and meeting our girls' special needs, while living in the constant transition of military life, proved to be more challenging than I ever imagined. But I stand before you today and testify to the truth that, as God has faithfully walked with our family through these adventures, He has proven Himself trustworthy and has graciously used our difficulties to teach me something about courageous faith.

The seven courageous faith power statements included in this study are foundational scriptural principles which God has personally taught to my heart over the years. I have learned that it takes courage to refuse old ways of living and choose God's way. It takes courage to choose to trust God when you're overwhelmed by your circumstances. Courage is required to continue to fight the "good fight of faith" when life hasn't turned out as you imagined. Each time we choose to believe God is in control, when everything in our lives seems to be spinning out of control, we are being courageous.

I have been sharing God's Word and our unique family story with women for many years. But it was not until September of 2007 that God called me to step out and organize the principles He had been teaching me into a Bible study. As I was listening to Beth Moore teach at a Women of Faith conference, one particular phrase impacted my heart: "Walk forward in the oil of your anointing." Throughout the weekend, God continued to overwhelm me with a sense of His calling captured in that phrase. God has faithfully walked alongside me, speaking to me and encouraging me, as He led in the creation of this Bible study, *Courageous Faith*.

My prayer, as you participate in this study, is that God would teach you something of what it means to exercise courageous faith no matter what adventures He allows in your life. And that He would enlarge your heart with a clearer picture of Himself as you learn to stand boldly and courageously on His Word in the daily moments of your life.

Before beginning this study, I would encourage you to watch the accompanying DVD. I have included a short introduction to *Courageous Faith*, as well as my testimony. Understanding my story will provide a backdrop to the ways God has used His Word in my life as well as add additional insight to personal stories I've included in this book.

With sincere prayers,  
Kelly Hall

"Walk forward  
in the oil of your  
anointing."



# Chapter One

## A COURAGEOUS HOLD: CONVINCED

*“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”* Hebrews 10:23

Take a moment to read over the Courageous Faith Power Statements in the introductory material. Notice that each Power Statement contains:

- A key word or phrase in bold type.
- A bold declaration to refuse a particular action.
- A bold choice to walk in God’s way.

In Scripture, we find numerous examples of those who exemplified the same courageous faith described in these Power Statements. Throughout this study, we will encounter ordinary people who refused to be defeated by their circumstances and instead chose to believe God and stand on His Word.

As I’ve struggled to believe God in some impossible situations and considered the inspiring examples of those who have gone before me, I’ve wondered if I needed to ask God for more faith. But God shed His light into this issue as He led me to the story of the disciples asking Jesus to increase their faith. Jesus explained they only needed faith as small as a mustard seed to move mountains (Matthew 17:20). I realized the size of my faith wasn’t the issue. I simply needed the courage to apply the faith I’d already been given.

Author Tim Hansel makes the same connection between courage and faith when he says, “Courage is the bridge between good ideas and actions. We all know that faith is the substance of hope. Well, I believe courage is the substance of faith.”<sup>1</sup> Courage is the force that drives our faith into action.

Courageous faith involves bold, daily choices to walk in God’s ways rather than our own. It requires a deep conviction that we are not at the mercy of our circumstances and that God is big enough and powerful enough to be trusted with every moment of our lives.

Take another look at the Power Statements in the front of the book. List the bold type words in each statement; these are the seven keys to developing courageous faith.

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|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |
|          | 7. _____ |



<sup>1</sup> Tim Hansel, *Holy Sweat* (Dallas: Word Publishing, 1987), 93.

Courage is  
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drives our  
faith into  
action.

10

## Day One: A Courageous Conviction

When we hear the word courage, we immediately think of words like brave, bold, confident, and resolute. These words provide a definition of courage but they are just words on a page. They don't inspire, challenge, or call us forward to live any differently than we're living right now. But what happens when we hear stories of courage? Consider the following examples.

When God called Moses to return to Egypt and lead His people out of slavery, Moses' initial reaction was fear. But after an interesting debate with the Lord, he chose to obey. He believed God as he stood up to Pharaoh, as he led the Israelites through the Red Sea, and as he led them forty more years in the wilderness. Throughout this entire adventure, we see God demonstrating His faithfulness, presence, power, and glory over and over in amazing ways.

Next consider Joshua, as God called him to take over the leadership of the Israelites. Joshua was probably experiencing a great big dose of "you've gotta be kiddin' me" and yet he chose to obey God's call to be strong and very courageous. He led the Israelites in battle at the Lord's direction and kept walking in courageous faith as the Lord defeated their enemies and allowed them to take possession of the Promised Land.

God proved Himself faithful when David, refusing to be controlled by the fear of the Israelite warriors surrounding him, answered God's call to step out in faith and battle Goliath. When God called Gideon to fight the vast Midianite army with his tiny group of 300 men, he refused to let fear overcome him; his act of courageous faith gave God a theater in which to display His power and sovereignty. Daniel answered God's call to serve faithfully and courageously in a pagan land even when dealing with difficult and sometimes life-threatening circumstances. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego courageously exercised faith in God when they refused to worship an earthly king and faced certain death. God called Joseph to walk in courageous faith after being sold into slavery and then thrown into prison.

Two things happen each time we hear stories of courage. First, we're inspired by the faith of those who stepped out, who trusted God when the outcome was uncertain, and who persevered when the easiest thing to do would have been to give in or give up.

We're not inspired to live differently by a definition of the word courage. However, we are inspired to live differently by seeing courage with flesh on it. We need to see it practiced: living, breathing humanity refusing fear, spurning doubt, and choosing to exercise faith in the almighty, faithful Lord.

Secondly, we're inspired by the character of God demonstrated in the story. The invisible God is made visible. We understand more fully His unlimited power, His faithfulness, His sovereignty, and the depths of His love. The God of the Bible becomes personal. I come to understand that the God who loved the whole world loves me. The God who rescued David from his enemies rescues me. The God who caused all things to work together for good in the life of Joseph does the same for me.

The same supernatural power that performed miracles in Egypt, that parted the Red Sea, that brought down the walls of Jericho, that closed the mouth of a hungry lion, and saved three young Israelites from certain death in a burning furnace is the same power that lives in you and me today.

- He is the almighty, eternal, faithful, unchanging, holy, Creator God.
- He is the great I Am.
- He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. All authority and power are His.
- Nothing and no one can stand in His way or separate us from His love.



And those are not just words on a page! This is powerful, foundational, life-giving, life-changing truth. I don't know about you, but now I'm inspired to live courageously.

Courage is the force that catapults us from puny faith to powerful, standing-on-the-Rock kind of faith!

Let's begin by focusing on our first Courageous Faith Power Statement. Fill in the key word.

- I refuse to be overcome by my circumstances or controlled by my emotions.
- Instead I choose to live my life fully \_\_\_\_\_ that God's character is unchanging, His promises are unfailing, and my eternal hope in Jesus Christ will never disappoint.

How would our lives be different if we refused to be controlled by what we felt and saw? Just imagine yourself courageously believing God no matter what happened, no matter what you were feeling.

In this chapter we will look at some snapshots from the lives of Daniel and his three young friends. As we consider their courageous choices and discover how God revealed Himself in their situations, our understanding of the sovereignty, power, and love of our God will be enlarged by leaps and bounds.

Turn to the book of Daniel and read the first chapter. Describe the circumstances that confronted Daniel in verses 1-7. Use the margins as needed to record answers.

What emotions can you imagine Daniel felt as he was taken from his home, away from his family, and marched 900 miles into a foreign country? Besides speaking a different language, the people of Babylon worshipped pagan gods. In your answer, include your thoughts about the event described in verse 7.

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What decision did Daniel make in verse 8?

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Why did Daniel make this decision? You may want to use a study Bible or commentary to gain additional insight.

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How do we know this decision placed Daniel in danger? (verse 10)

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Daniel made his decision with the full knowledge that the king might order him to be executed. He initially met with opposition from the king's official. This would have been a perfect time to say, "Well, God, I tried. I did my best, but it didn't work out. I guess I'll just have to eat their food." But Daniel displayed great courage as he continued to trust God even when the outcome was uncertain.

What did Daniel propose in light of the official's argument? (see Daniel 1:11-13)

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Read verses 14-16. How do you think Daniel came up with this idea? What was the outcome of this test?

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I refuse to be  
overcome  
by my  
circumstances.