

Faith @ Work: COURAGEOUS INTEGRITY!

Scripture used: [Judges 6:12-16 \(NLT\)](#); [Judges 6:25-26 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Courageous integrity is faith that tells the truth—about fear, doubt, and responsibility—while still choosing obedience. History and Scripture both remind us that courage does not exist without fear. Some of the most faithful acts in human history were born not from confidence, but from honesty before God. The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s is one such example. Emerging from the Southern Black church and sustained by prayer, it showed how faith can confront injustice without surrendering to hatred. Leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. openly acknowledged fear, doubt, and exhaustion, yet repeatedly returned to God in prayer and found the courage to move forward. We see the same pattern in the story of Gideon. Hiding in a winepress while his people were under attack, Gideon was met by God and called a “mighty hero.” God did not explain the brokenness of the world, but He did offer a response: “*Go with the strength you have.*” Courageous integrity begins when we meet God honestly in our fear and allow Him to work through us.

KEY POINTS

- 1. Courage requires honesty about fear.** Fear is not a failure of faith; it is the raw material God uses to form courage. Like Dr. King and Gideon, we must admit our fear rather than deny it.
- 2. Honesty protects us from manipulation.** When we name our fears, we are less likely to be controlled by them—or by others who exploit them.
- 3. God calls us to act with the strength we already have.** Gideon was hiding when God called him a mighty hero. God does not wait for us to feel ready. He sends us as we are.
- 4. Faith allows room for doubt without abandoning God.** Gideon questioned God directly. Jesus cried out on the cross. Dr. King wrote openly about his doubts. Faith does not require pretending.
- 5. Courageous integrity starts at home.** Before confronting others, God told Gideon to tear down the false altar in his own household. Transformation begins within.
- 6. Love is God's instrument of change.** Hate multiplies division; love dismantles it. We are called to see the good in others and the need for forgiveness in ourselves.

DISCUSSION

- 1) HEAR** - Courageous integrity is not loud bravado or moral superiority. It is the quiet strength to be honest—with ourselves, with God, and with one another—especially when fear is present. God meets us in hiding places and calls us forward anyway. Our silence in the face of injustice and brokenness causes our lives to stumble, but honest faith sets us in motion. Where do you find it harder to be honest—when you’re afraid, when you feel uncertain, or when you feel responsible for others? Why do you think that is?
- 2) UNDERSTAND** - Where are you currently wrestling with fear or doubt? What “altar” in your own life (e.g. attitudes or habits) might God be asking you to address before critiquing others?
- 3) DO** - This week, practice courageous integrity by doing two things: name one fear honestly in prayer and ask God to meet you there; and examine your own circle—family, workplace, church, or community—and take responsibility for what God is calling *you* to change first.