

THE COURAGEOUS FAITH OF EHUD

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Judges 3:1-30 New International Version (NIV)

Introduction

Courage is a highly admired trait among humans. Perhaps it is because courage is usually seen in times of duress, and in the most unexpected ways, and from the most unexpected people.

Illustration: Courage

One summer morning as Ray Blankenship was preparing his breakfast, he gazed out the window, and saw a small girl being swept along in the rain-flooded drainage ditch beside his Andover, Ohio, home. Blankenship knew that farther downstream, the ditch disappeared with a roar underneath a road and then emptied into the main culvert. Ray dashed out the door and raced along the ditch, trying to get ahead of the foundering child. Then he hurled himself into the deep, churning water. Blankenship surfaced and was able to grab the child's arm. They tumbled end over end. Within about three feet of the yawning culvert, Ray's free hand felt something--possibly a rock-- protruding from one bank. He clung desperately, but the tremendous force of the water tried to tear him and the child away. "If I can just hang on until help comes," he thought. He did better than that. By the time fire-department rescuers arrived, Blankenship had pulled the girl to safety. Both were treated for shock. On April 12, 1989, Ray Blankenship was awarded the Coast Guard's Silver Lifesaving Medal. The award is fitting, for this selfless person was at even greater risk to himself than most people knew. Ray Blankenship can't swim. -Paul Harvey, Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

****The life of faith requires courage. We may not always feel courageous, but through God's help we can step out in faith for His glory.**

Ehud's faith was the source of his courage and it resulted in him taking several important steps in responding to God's call:

I. HIS COURAGEOUS FAITH HELPED HIM TO LOOK BEYOND APPARENT SOLUTIONS.

A. His COURAGEOUS FAITH helped him to see a God-centered solution.

B. His COURAGEOUS FAITH enabled him to see God as his source of protection and power.

II. HIS COURAGEOUS FAITH ENABLED HIM TO *MOVE BEYOND HIS COMFORT ZONE.*

A. He was able to face the enemy without the support of human power.

B. He was able to take action without the odds being in his favor.

III. HIS COURAGEOUS FAITH *ENABLED HIM TO LEAD* THE NATION OF ISRAEL WAY TO VICTORY.

A. His actions opened the door for victory. *When we step out in faith we inspire others.*

B. His leadership helped seal the victory. *He led others to victory simply by fulfilling his purpose.*

CONCLUSION

Being scared or unsure at times is part of being human, but God enables us to be courageous.

Courage is doing what you're afraid to do. There can be no courage unless you're scared.

-Eddie Rickenbacker, *Bits & Pieces*, April 29, 1993, p. 12.