

April 15, 2012

## **Being Strong And Of Good Courage Pastor Charles Mendenhall**

There was special ministry for those needing prayer and encouragement due to discouragement in their lives at the beginning of the service.

Example was given of David in 1 Samuel chapter 30, telling how the enemy had attacked his people, burning their towns and carrying their families off as captives. Everyone had turned against him, his men threatened to kill him. David was very discouraged, but his response to all this was to "encourage himself in the Lord"

**1 Samuel 30:6** *"And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God"* KJV

David received a word from the Lord, telling him to go and he would get it all back.

**1 Samuel 30:8** *"And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all."* KJV

(Pastor ministered as he had been led to for the people who responded and came forth, encouraging others to also come forward and lay hands on those responding)

Jesus is all about people, that is why He came to make people whole. He loves people; therefore we should endeavor to let the love of God flow through us.

**Luke 4:18** *"The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon Me, because He has anointed Me [the Anointed One, the Messiah] to preach the good news (the Gospel) to the poor; He has sent Me to announce release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to send forth as delivered those who are oppressed [who are downtrodden, bruised, crushed, and broken down by calamity],"* AMP

As we look around we see how the enemy is trying to destroy everyone. The enemy doesn't care who he uses to do this. But if we could see as Jesus sees, we would see that Jesus has come in the calm, the midst of the storm to give us life and peace, to heal us up on the inside and outside, to give us a favorable outcome in our lives, this is the plan that God has for us.

There is no higher way than walking in love. God wants to show us a more excellent way. Love is the royal law of the scriptures.

**1 Cor 14:1** *"EAGERLY PURSUE and seek to acquire [this] love [make it your aim, your great*

*quest]; and earnestly desire and cultivate the spiritual endowments (gifts), especially that you may prophesy (interpret the divine will and purpose in inspired preaching and teaching)"*  
AMP

The principal of leadership and the importance of it in our lives. Example was given of Joshua and the leadership given to him. Though Joshua never sought the position, Moses recognized the potential in him. Joshua served Moses for more than 40 yrs in a second rate position, he was faithful to him above everyone else. Moses knew that Joshua was committed to him, he was loyal and never complained. Moses saw his heart and turned the responsibility over to Joshua to take the children of Israel into the Promised Land.

Joshua receives a word from the Lord.

**Joshua 1:6** *"Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. 7Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper withersoever thou goest."* KJV

Sometimes we have to walk through being strong and of good courage. We cannot be strong and discouraged at the same time. Strength and courage go together. You don't need courage in your life unless you are going to do something. When overcoming something spiritually, courage will be needed.

**Joshua 1:9-18** *"9Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. 10Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, 11Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it. 12And to the Reubenites, and to the Gadites, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, spake Joshua, saying 13Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, The LORD your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land. 14Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle, shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side Jordan; but ye shall pass before your brethren armed, all the mighty men of valour, and help them; 15Until the LORD have given your brethren rest, as he hath given you, and they also have possessed the land which the LORD your God giveth them: then ye shall return unto the land of your possession, and enjoy it, which Moses the LORD's servant gave you on this side Jordan toward the sunrising 16And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go. 17According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the LORD thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses. 18Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage."* KJV

Joshua had been in the land before and knew all the obstacles, the nation of giants and the walled cities, that were there, but the Lord told him to plant his foot and the land would be given to him.

**Joshua 1:3** *"Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto*

*you, as I said unto Moses."* KJV

We cannot plant our feet, spiritually speaking, on any land by staying home, murmuring and complaining, it will keep us from receiving from the Lord

The 10th chapter of 1st Corinthians verse 10 tells what happened to the children of Israel because of their murmuring and complaining.

**1Cor10:10** *"Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer."* KJV.

Joshua didn't wait for favorable circumstances, when the word of the Lord came to Joshua, the Jordan River was flooded, but it was time to go over and take Jericho. He was obedient, placed his foot and had the courage to go. The Lord had promised him that as He had been with Moses, He would be with Joshua, would not fail him nor forsake him.

God has a path laid out for us, if we will only take the necessary steps, be strong and of good courage. God will give strength to finish the course or run our course. When we understand that our strength and ability comes from the Lord, we enter into a place of rest, no struggle or worry. Trusting God means that we are resting.

Chapter 4 of Hebrews verses 1-11 tells us of the rest that God has provided for us

**1 Samuel 30:4-8.** *"4Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep. 5And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. 6And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God. 7And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David. 8And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all." KJV*

King Saul had made many attempts to kill David, but the Philistines had given him a city to dwell in, David and his men resided there. David was not a normal warrior, his plans were to go against the Philistines when the chance came, however, the Amalekites came destroying their homes and taking their families captive. His men turned against him and were going to kill him, they were so discouraged. He encouraged himself in the Lord and ask the Lord what he should do. David did not wait for someone to come to him, but he stepped out and sought the Lord. He took it all back

**1 Samuel 30:18-20** *"18And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives. 19And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any thing that they had taken to them: David recovered all. 20And David took all the flocks and the herds, which they drave before those other cattle, and said, This is David's spoil." KJV*

There are times that we need encouragement from others, but we cannot wait for that to happen. We must take the first step in seeking the Lord

We will recover all and more if we will be strong and of good courage. But we must pursue it and at the same time rest in God.

The signs of the times seem to be present in the ever changing weather patterns, but the word tells us that God makes a "calm in the midst of the storm". Don't wait until the storms begin to come down on us, but begin now to renew our faith in the power of the name of Jesus Christ, as every thing must bow its knee to the name of Jesus. Rebuke in the name of Jesus and God's plan is that everything must change for our protection.

**Psalms 107: 1-43** *"1 O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. 2Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy; 3And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south. 4They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they found no city to dwell in. 5Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. 6Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses 7And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation. 8Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!9For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.10Such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron; 11Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High 12Therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help.13Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses. 14He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder.15Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! 16For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder17Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted. 18Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death. 19Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses. 20He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. 21Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men 22And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing. 23They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; 24These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep. 25For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. 26They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. 27They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit's end 28Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. 29He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. 30Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven. 31Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! 32Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders 33He turneth rivers into a wilderness, and the watersprings into dry ground; 34A fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein. 35He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into watersprings. 36And there he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may prepare a city for habitation; 37And sow the fields, and plant vineyards, which may yield fruits of increase.38He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly; and suffereth not their cattle to decrease. 39Again, they are minished and brought low through oppression, affliction, and sorrow. 40He poureth contempt upon princes,*

*and causeth them to wander in the wilderness, where there is no way. 41Yet setteth he the poor on high from affliction, and maketh him families like a flock.42The righteous shall see it, and rejoice: and all iniquity shall stop her mouth. 43Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD." KJV*

**Heb 1:14** *"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" KJV*

Aware of "angelic beings". There are angels all around to deliver us from evil, harm and calamity. There is a secret place in the Lord. Death and life are in the power of the tongue. We run to the Lord and dwell there.

**Psalms 91:1-***"1He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. 3Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. 4He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. 5Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; 6Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. 7A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. 8Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. 9Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; 10There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.11For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. 12They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. 13Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. 14Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. 15He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.16With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation." KJV*

Five things that the word salvation means deliverance, healing, perservation, safety and soundness. This is what the Lord is wanting to show His people

The power is in the name of Jesus. There is the secret place. Begin to pray now and stir up the faith that is on the inside of us.