

Do You Have The Courage To Be A Christian?

When we think of courage we tend to think of dramatic, once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to show courage in acts of heroism that never seem to happen to ordinary folk like you and me.

Yet anyone who seeks to live a Christian life has to show on a daily basis if we are courageous or cowardly.

We do this when we choose between doing what is right instead of what is convenient and comfortable.

Do we stick to our convictions or do we cave in for the sake of comfort, greed or the approval of other people.

We choose either to believe and trust in what God has stated in the Holy Christian Bible, or cower in corners of doubt and fear.

These choices come our way every day in rapid fire, so frequently that we may even forget that we are making them, so we find ourselves *“following the flow”* instead of making courageous choices.

Some people say that Christianity is for weak people, but the exact opposite is true.

It takes a great deal of old-fashioned courage to be a Christian, for such faith and trust in the Creator God demands the best we have.

Courage is needed from the first moment we decide to live a Christian life.

1 John 1:8-10 [NIV] *“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.”*

The first step in a Christian life is to own up to our sins before a Holy God.

That takes courage.

Hebrews 10:38 [NIV] *“But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.”*

Christians are expected to live by faith.

1 Corinthians 5:7 [NIV] *“We live by faith, not by sight.”*

As Christians we sometimes feel like a blindfolded child being led through a wood, only being guided by the voice of our Creator God.

That takes courage.

Psalms 119:105 [NIV] *“ [Num] Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”*

Such a light will only illuminate one step at a time.

Jesus Christ the Head of the Christian Church warned His disciples that following Him would not be easy, it would take great courage.

Luke 14:26, 28 [Living Bible] *“Anyone who wants to be My follower must love Me far more than they do their own father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters, yes, his own life, otherwise they cannot be My disciple...” ... “But don’t begin until you count the cost...”*

John 15:18-19 [Message Bible] *“If you find this godless world is hating you, remember it got its start by hating Me [Jesus Christ]. If you lived on the world’s terms, the world would love you as one of its own. But since I picked you to live on God’s terms and no longer on the world’s terms, the world is going to hate you.”*

John 16:1-4 [Message Bible] *“I’ve told you these things to prepare you for rough times ahead. They are going to throw you out of the meeting places. There will even come a time when anyone who kills you will think they are doing God a favour. They will do these things because they never really understood the Father. I’ve told you these things so that when the time times and they start in on you, you’ll be well-warned and ready for them.”*

It takes great courage to live the life of a Christian, but the end reward far outweighs all the pain and suffering.

What price can you put on an eternal life of peace and fulfilment?