

# 2 Timothy 1:8–18

## *Courageous and Unashamed*

The Summit Church, 2 Timothy

**MPT:** Unashamed courage in the face of suffering can only happen when we understand the power the gospel has infused into our lives through the Spirit.

**MPS:** Paul gives Timothy three gospel truths to help enable him—and us—to walk with courageous, unashamed faith.

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### [Campuses Read Live]

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

<sup>2</sup>To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>3</sup>I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. <sup>4</sup>As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup>I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. <sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, <sup>7</sup>for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

<sup>8</sup>Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, <sup>9</sup>who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, <sup>10</sup>and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, <sup>11</sup>for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, <sup>12</sup>which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me. <sup>13</sup>Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup>By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

<sup>15</sup>You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. <sup>16</sup>May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, <sup>17</sup>but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me— <sup>18</sup>may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

Can we thank all of those who just read? Honestly, I just **didn't know how to pronounce** some of those **names at the end** so I asked other folks to read to **spare me the embarrassment**.

If you haven't already, make your way over to the book of 2 Timothy, which is where we are gonna spend the **next four weeks** as a church—one chapter per week. This week we're gonna open 2 Timothy 1 and **see what it looks like to have a courageous and unashamed faith**.

How would you finish this sentence: “He was not very courageous; actually he was filled with \_\_\_\_\_.” **FEAR.** *How many of you regularly deal with some measure of fear, worry, or anxiety?*<sup>1</sup> The people who didn’t raise their hands it’s just cuz they were **afraid** to ... or **worried** about what I was gonna do next!

We are a society that is **obsessed with personal safety**—we worry about *everything*. What’s crazy is that most aspects of our lives are significantly safer than they were a couple generations ago: Like, you don’t wake up scared you’re gonna get **eaten by a bear** while you’re hunting and gathering. There were **illnesses our grandparents worried about** that could cause death that we can now cure at Walgreens.

I’m 37, so I grew up right in the middle of “**stupid**” and “**safety**.”

- We started realizing **seatbelts were good** and **cigarettes were bad** ... but we still rode facing backwards in station wagons and rode in the bed of trucks on main roads.
- My parents used to **lock me out of the house until dinner so I’d play outside**—so I’d go ride my bike all around the neighborhood, unsupervised, with no helmet, jumping in creeks, picking berries off bushes, and drinking from the hose.
- These days, my kids have to get **permission to go play in the driveway unsupervised** ... if they so much as **think about riding something** they have to strap on so much protective gear you’d think we were launching them on a **mission to the moon**—looking like the **Michelin Man** or the **kid from Little Giants** whose mom wrapped him up in pads.

We allow fear to direct so much of our lives. Encountering fear is unavoidable ... the problem is that we often don’t fear the right things:

- We’re scared of our **kids getting hurt**, yet we give them unhindered access to iPhones.
- We’re scared of “**not fulfilling our potential**,” but we don’t fear that we might be building our own kingdom instead of God’s.
- We’re scared of **not having enough**, but we have no fear of what comfort and riches and ease might be doing to our souls.
- Fear of finances
- Fear about the future
- Fear about relationships
- Fear of choosing the wrong job or wrong school

And this plays out in our **spiritual lives** too:

- *Why do you not share your faith?*
  - **Fear of rejection**
    - *I don’t want to offend anyone.*

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<sup>1</sup> Owe this intro to Joby Martin and his message, [“No Fear”](#)

- *I'm scared of how they might react.*
  - **Fear of humiliation or not knowing enough**
    - *I wouldn't know what to say.*
    - *What if they ask me a question I can't answer?*
- *Why do you have a hard time being vulnerable?*
  - **Fear of what someone thinks about you**
    - We're scared of what others think about us, but we have no holy fear over what God thinks about us.

And how does the world tell you to deal with your fears?

1. *Look within yourself to find the courage to overcome!*
  - But you look within and all you find is more fear.
2. *Tell yourself, "This fear isn't real." Manifest a future reality where fear doesn't exist.*
  - Which is ridiculous, because there are *real threats* and *dangers* in our lives.

Ignoring our fear or believing it isn't real is just naive; it's foolish. What 2 Timothy is gonna show us is that **courage is not the absence of fear, but unashamedly following Jesus in the midst of fear.** See, the opposite of faith is not doubt; it's fear.

- Did you know the Bible says, "Do not be afraid" 366x ... one for each day of the year *plus* leap year?
- Courage is not the absence of fear, but unashamedly following Jesus who walks with you and says, "*Do not be afraid ... for I am with you.*"

What 2 Timothy is gonna show us is **how to live with an unashamed, courageous faith** ... specifically in a world that is increasingly antagonistic toward Christ, his people, and the Bible.

## CONTEXT

2 Timothy is actually the **last letter written** by the Apostle Paul. He's writing from a dungeon prison in Rome. He's on trial for his faith ... things aren't going well ... and his death is likely imminent. So the letter Paul writes here isn't just **doctrinal**; it's **deeply personal**. That's why in v. 2 he says, **<sup>2</sup>To Timothy, my beloved child ...**

- It's written as a **spiritual father** passing down timeless gospel truths to his **spiritual son**. In some ways it's the **passing of the torch** to the next generation. This letter is gonna show us why **relational discipleship** is so vital to our own **spiritual growth**.

Paul goes on to say in the next few verses:

- *I remember you in my prayers... I'm always thinking of you.*
- *I remember the tears you shed when we parted ... leaving you was tough, man ... in fact, I long to see you.*
- *I'm reminded of your faith, passed down to you from your grandmama and your mama.*

<sup>7</sup>for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Timothy is pastoring the church at Ephesus, where all sorts of **buckwild** and **ratchet** stuff is happening. So Paul knows there's gonna be a temptation for Timothy to **give into fear and shame**.

- Paul knows that, just in his personality, Timothy is a pretty **timid** and **shy dude**. He's **young**; he's more **introverted** than Paul ... he's even a **bit squeamish**. **Scripture** tells us.<sup>2</sup>
- When you think of Timothy, don't think **William Wallace**. If anything, he's **Maximus Decimus Timmiditus**.
- And everything he's going through in his **church**, in his **context**, and in his **culture** would make it real easy for Timothy to succumb to **fear and shame** about his faith in Christ, ultimately leading his church to the same.

But instead of **considering the reasons to fear and be ashamed**, Paul is reminding Timothy to **consider his resources given to him in the Spirit**. *God didn't save you and then equip you with cowardice, Timothy.*

And here's the good news: **The same Spirit that lives in Timothy—the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead—lives in you and me**. *If you sense God calling you to do something far beyond your **natural capabilities or personality**, be encouraged by Timothy's life: Your giftedness is not what qualifies you to be used by God.*

What Paul reminds Timothy applies to you also: If you are a child of God, then God has given you the Holy Spirit to live inside of you. And that Spirit, **v. 7**, was not a spirit of fear, but of **power** and **love** and **self-control**!

At the time of your salvation, God **deposited into your spiritual account** the Holy Spirit, which comes equipped with power to do whatever he's calling you to do, love to fix your heart on the right desires, and self-control which enables you to bring every factor in your life in line to accomplish that which he's called you to.

So any weakness on our part isn't because of a **deficiency in God's provision**, but a failure to draw on the **resources he's already put in our account**.

- When I encounter **fear**, I make a withdrawal from my spiritual bank—boom, power to overcome.

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<sup>2</sup> 1 Tim 5:23

- When I encounter **apathy**, I make a withdrawal—boom, love to ignite my heart.
- When I encounter a **temptation**, I make a withdrawal—boom, self-control.

Paul says, *“Any weakness on your part, Timothy, is strictly just not cashing your check, because the resources are in your spiritual bank; you’re just not drawing on them!”*

<sup>8</sup>Therefore—because you have a spirit of power, love, and self-control, *not of fear*—do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God...

Real quickly, what is shame? Brad Hambrick, our Doctor of Counseling here at the church, says **shame is an experience of the eyes**—when you feel ashamed about something it makes it hard for you to look at someone.

- That’s because, he says, shame focuses not just on what I did or didn’t do, but on **who I am**; shame attempts to **reshape our identity**.
- Shame makes us feel like we won’t be admitted into the store to buy something even if we had the money. Shame believes what I have done makes me less than ... it makes me feel second class or unacceptable. **Shame is about identity.**<sup>3</sup>
  - Which is why Paul started this letter by reminding Timothy of who he is (*You’re my spiritual son; I’ve seen your faith; I know God is at work in you!* He’s speaking life into him. By the way, this is why you need community: You need brothers/sisters speaking truth into your life to combat the lies that fear and shame try to speak over you!)

In v. 8, Paul tells Timothy to not be ashamed ... *of what?*: The testimony of our Lord, nor of Paul, his brother in Christ. He says, *“Don’t believe the lie that your association with me and with the gospel makes you less than.”*

See, at this time, to be associated with Jesus, and now Paul, was to be associated with shame. In fact, **the earliest known artistic depiction of Jesus on the cross** is from this time period in Rome—it’s called the **Alexamenos Graffito**.

- Historians believe Alexamenos was a Roman soldier who was there at the crucifixion of Jesus. Alexamenos has his hands raised in a gesture of worship as Jesus cried out on the cross.
- But you see how Christianity is depicted in this culture? **Jesus on the cross with the head of a donkey.**
- The donkey head, obviously, is to mock anyone who would worship a man who was crucified. The cross itself was an instrument of shame.
  - There’s **deep cultural shame** associated with anyone who believes in this “Savior.”

<sup>3</sup> [Forgiveness and Shame, Not Just Guilt | Brad Hambrick](#)

This is the attitude toward Christians—to be associated with Christ or associated with Paul, was to **voluntarily enter into shame, persecution, imprisonment, and even potentially death.** Yet Paul encourages Timothy to **not be ashamed!**

**Not long after I got saved, I had someone very close to me I wanted to share the gospel with:** *Stranger? Absolutely! Close to me? Ehhhh...*

- I remember driving to the gym one morning praying for this specific person: “God, would you give me an opportunity to share ... save them ... yada yada yada.” And it was like the tenth time that week I had prayed that prayer. And I remember pulling into the parking lot and, in what was the closest thing I’ve ever received to a smack-upside-the-head from God, he spoke to me and said, “You work at a CELL PHONE STORE ... selling something you can pull out of your pocket, dial, and call and talk to anybody about anything any time you *actually want.*”
- And, in that moment, what I realized is that I was scared to share about Jesus. I was ashamed of the gospel message. I was ashamed to call and say, “Hey, I know this great Savior.” **I was ashamed; I was. There’s no other word.**

I had plenty of **conviction** about my beliefs, but I didn’t have any **courage** at that moment. It’s one thing to have **conviction of belief**; it’s a whole other thing to have **courage that backs up those convictions.**

- Courage is an attitude that doesn’t compromise.
- Courage is an attitude of saying, *“No matter what the results or repercussions here might be, I’m going to stand strong on my convictions.”*
- That’s the attitude of being unashamed of Christ.

Unashamed means you’re not just willing to *believe* it ... but you’re willing to **testify** to it. Willing to be **scorned** for it. Willing to **suffer and die** for it. Willing to **stake my whole reputation** on it.

While we may not face **physical suffering and persecution** in America because of our faith, the temptations to feel and be **shamed** are the same today. Our obstacles aren’t anything like Paul’s necessarily, but we *do* have the same temptation as Timothy: **to give up, to cower, and to be ashamed of our faith.**

- Shame about Christ
- Shame about our brothers/sisters
- Shame about some of the hard teachings in the Bible
  - Even in a comfortable society, the Christian life is risky, difficult, and filled with tensions.

That’s the message he’s conveying to Timothy: to not be ashamed; to not get pressured into caving on his convictions; to not lose heart; to not be afraid to stand up for Christ, even if it costs him his life. **And these are all of the same types of challenges you and I are going to face if we are walking faithfully with Jesus.**

*How can we walk out that kind of courageous, unashamed faith? How do we endure with unashamed faith? How do we persevere in our faith in a world that seems intent on destroying it?*

From 2 Timothy, I wanna give you **three gospel truths that enable us to walk with courageous, unashamed faith:**

These are things Paul was able to say, and now he wants Timothy to know these truths deep in his bones. These statements are what each of us should own in our own lives, just as Paul desired Timothy to own them then:

### **1) God Saved Me and Called Me (vv. 9–12)**

Let's do some audience participation ... as I go through these verses, I want you to answer: "God" or "man" as to who is the one doing the primary actions here.

<sup>9</sup>[God] saved us (who saved: God or man?) and called us to a holy calling (who called: God or man?), not because of our works (whose works saved: God or man?) but because of his own purpose and grace (whose purpose and grace: God or man?), which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began (who gave: God or man?),<sup>10</sup> and which now has been manifested—made evident—through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus...

If we want to live with a courageous, unashamed faith we **must understand our own salvation**. The idea is that while you're out there living an unashamed Christian life, you must not forget the God who holds you up. And who is this God?

- He is **the God who saved you**: When you had done nothing deserving of being saved, he reached down from heaven to rescue you.
- He is **the God who called you**: He calls you to a holy life, to fulfill his holy purpose for you. He has called you to be a **Kingdom of Priests, a Holy Nation, a People for his own Possession!**
- **God saved and called you by his own grace** (*grace is getting something you don't deserve*): **For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**

The very God who **laid out** and **executed the plan of redemption** can surely **sustain and empower** the very people he came to redeem. And if *that* God saved you and called you, who's or what's there to fear? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** If this God gave his *life* for us, how could I not be unashamed in giving my life for his glory?

Paul says, <sup>12</sup>[This] is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.

- **I am not ashamed, for I KNOW whom I have believed**

On April 12, 1945, arguably the most popular president in history died in office: **President Franklin D. Roosevelt**.

- Immediately, Vice President Harry Truman was sworn in as the President of the United States ... who, at the time, had only been VP for 82 days.
- As if FDR's death wasn't bad enough, most folks weren't too excited about Truman's inception. Even General George Patton wrote: *"It seems very unfortunate that in order to secure political preference, people are made Vice Presidents who are never intended, neither by Party nor by the Lord to be Presidents."*
  - "Common wisdom" of the day was that **senators don't make good presidents**, since they don't have **executive experience like governors do**. Some thought Truman was a **political hack**, while others thought he was a **compromised candidate**.
  - Truman biographer David McCullough writes, *"To many it was not just that the greatest of men had fallen, but that the least of men . . . had assumed his place."*

But, McCullough goes on to write: *"There were some, however, who . . . felt confident the country was in good hands. They knew [Truman personally as a] man, they said. They understood his origins. They had seen how he handled responsibility and knew the inner resources he could draw on. As before and later in his life, **confidence in Harry Truman was greatest among those who knew him best.**"*

**"Confidence in Harry Truman was greatest among those who knew him best."**

- Success is largely subjective, but Truman consistently ranks in historians' top 10 rankings of the best presidents. *You know who wasn't surprised by that? **Apparently those closest to him.***
- **When you know someone well, you know what they are capable of.**

The question is this: Do you know God well enough to know what he is capable of? Not just, do you know *about* him; but do you *know* him? Can you say with Paul, **"I know whom I have believed"**?

- Not just *what* I believe—that's important—but my faith isn't just in a set of **doctrines**; it's in the One who **determines** my every step.
- My faith isn't just in a set of **statements**; it's in the One who is **sovereign** over everything.
- And if we know his *works*, we will be confident in his *ways*.
- **When you know someone well, you know what they are capable of.**
- Confidence in God will be greatest among those who know him best. The better you know him, the more confident you'll be.



This is so empowering and freeing, cuz it means you don't have to be amazing. You don't have to be **courageous**. You don't have to be **bold**. You just have to **rest in the God who saved and sustains you and in the power of the Spirit** he has put inside of you!

Listen, **the more you make the Christian life about you, the harder it's gonna be**. You'll be worried about not being **smart** enough, or being **rejected**, or not **knowing** enough, or that you're a **hypocrite**.

- God doesn't need you to be **awesome**; he needs you to be **obedient**.
- **Oswald Chambers**: "God can achieve his purpose either through the absence of human power and resources, or the abandonment of reliance on them. All through history God has chosen and used nobodies, because their unusual dependence on him made possible the unique display of his power and grace. He chose and used somebodies only when they renounced dependence on their natural abilities and resources."

Listen: God specializes in taking **nobodies**, but he can also use **somebodies**, but only when the **somebodies renounce dependence on their own bodies**—thus becoming **nobodies**—and allowing the One who created all of our **bodies** to achieve his purpose through **anybody** who will become a **nobody** to become part of his **Body**!

- That's a bit of a ridiculous sentence, but it's ridiculously good theology!

Courageous faith—unashamed faith—is a faith that's confident in Christ because it knows whom it has believed. And whom it has believed is the God who saves and calls.

That's our first spine-strengthening statement. Here's our second one:

## **2) My Death Is Already Dead (vv. 9–10)**

<sup>9</sup>who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, <sup>10</sup>and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who **abolished death** and **brought life and immortality** to light through the gospel,

Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection means two things—two sides of the same coin: First, it means that he has abolished death. "Abolished" in v. 10 means **death has been disarmed**. It's been rendered **ineffective**.

- Now, God didn't eliminate death, of course ... people still die in an earthly sense. But he disarmed death by taking the sting out of it for believers, because death is now just a gateway to a greater life with him. For the believer, death has lost its victory; death is already dead.

Imagine how dramatically that statement can impact your courage. Imagine how free you'd be when you realize **dying is actually gain**. This is why Paul was able to say, "To live is Christ; to die is gain." Actually, go look at Phillipians 1 and this is his entire posture:

- We're gonna shut you up! *Cool, the gospel is still advancing.*
- We're gonna put you in prison! *That's fine, I'll just witness to the guards and they'll get saved.*
- We're gonna butcher your gospel! *Eh, Christ is still proclaimed so I'll rejoice in it.*
- We'll kill you, Paul! *Alrighty, to die is gain, for departing and being with Christ is way better than this earthly life!*
- Fine, we'll let you live but ensure you live miserably. *Okey dokey, to live is Christ and the gospel will advance.*

The most courageous, unashamed, and free you will ever be is when you realize **death is already dead**.

George Herbert, an old English poet, has a great line where he says, "Death used to be an executioner, but the gospel has made him just a gardener."

- See, all death can do is plant you ... but if your life is buried in the soil of the gospel then **death is the means by which you bloom into the glorified person** you were always meant to be.
- Makes me think of Tertullian's line: "*The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.*" It's true in places like China or Iran today: Believers don't live in fear of death because they are THAT enamored with the God who died for them ... therefore, they live with an unashamed and bold faith.
  - What can you do to people like that? Think about it: What could've frightened Lazarus?!

That's why Paul tells Timothy that Christ **brought life and immortality to light through the gospel**. That's the other side of the coin: Death has lost its sting, and eternal life is what it actually brings.

*How would you approach life if you knew death was only a pathway to a greater life? What risks would you take for God? How courageous would you be?*

- For some it might mean you'll answer the call to go overseas.
- For others it might mean you have the courage to finally share the gospel with that coworker or friend or family member.

*How would you approach life if you knew God saved you, he called you, and death was already defeated?*

Here's our final statement to help us walk with courageous, unashamed faith:

### 3) *My Strength Is the Spirit (v. 14)*

<sup>13</sup>Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup>By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

Paul bookends his admonition to Timothy by reminding him, and us, the power of the Spirit in our lives—that's how he started in v. 7 and that's how he wraps up here in v. 14.

- How are we to live out an unashamed, courageous life? [By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us.](#)

There's an [old Nike commercial](#) with Calvin Johnson and Diddy (Puff Daddy, Sean Combs, P Diddy, whatever you wanna call him). When it came out, CJ was easily the best receiver in the NFL—to this day, still one of the greatest the game has ever seen.

- In the commercial it's him walking and you're getting insight into the inner dialogue in his head:
  - CALVIN, *That receiving record is waiting.*
  - ... *But so are the interviews and the demands.*
  - CALVIN, *you gotta focus on football: get faster, better hands, footwork.*
  - ... *But what about your entourage? What about the other stuff?*
- Then all of a sudden you hear Diddy's voice and he says: *All that other stuff, I got this.*
  - CALVIN'S a little confused and kinda says, "Who is this?" To which Diddy replies, "I'M JOHNSON." Basically, "I'm this other part inside of you that's gonna take care of the other stuff so you can focus on your call." *You focus. I got this.*
  - Calvin says: What about the obligations?
    - Johnson says: PUT IT ON ME.
  - The entourage ... PUT IT ON ME.
  - The hype ... PUT IT ON ME.

Church, don't you realize what Paul is saying here? He's saying **your strength is in the Spirit who lives inside of you.**

- *Yeah, but the pressure. The Spirit says, "Put it on me."*
- *Yeah, but my failures. He says, "Put it on me."*
- *Yeah, but I'm overwhelmed. I've got some burdens. Put it on me.*

- *Yeah, but my past won't leave me alone. Put it on me...you're not in this by yourself. You've got help. Help is here. Courage is here. Boldness is here.*
  - Your help is Jesus.
  - Your help is the Spirit living inside of you.
  - Your help is stronger than any hell you're going through.
  - The strength inside of you because of the Spirit is strong enough for any circumstance you're going through.

Church, our courage does not come from looking within ... not from manifesting some fantasy land of no fears ... our courage comes from our God.

## CONCLUSION

We have courage because we have God in us, and **he literally embodied courage**. See, Christianity is the only religion that claims **our God has the attribute of courage**. *Know how I know?* Because when God became human—Jesus in the flesh—he became vulnerable.

- When Jesus was in the garden, knowing the torture, pain, and execution awaiting him on the cross, he begged God for another way ... yet he obeyed, even though he knew what he was about to face.
- Yet, Hebrews 12 tells us it was *“for the JOY set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”*

Do you see it? Jesus looked away from himself and **toward joy**—the joy of **pleasing his Father** and **redeeming his friends**.

- That's the joy that enabled him to have courage.
- That's the joy that enabled him to be unashamed even to the point of death.

Listen, Jesus is not ashamed to be identified with us. Some of you need to hear that today: Jesus is not ashamed to be identified with you.

- The question is whether you'll be ashamed to identify with him. Let me just ask you: *If you're ashamed of Jesus today, do you really think you'll enjoy being with him in heaven forever?*
- I pray we, as a church, can get even just a glimpse of Jesus courageously dying for us like that ... then and only then will you **unashamedly and courageously** say to whatever or whoever is in front of you, *“Spare not, do thy worst.”*

## DECLARATION

I wanna end by having us all stand and read/declare/pray this together. Shaky source, but often attributed to an African pastor or missionary...

I am part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have Holy Spirit power.

The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of his. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away or be still.

My past is redeemed. My present makes sense. My future is secure.

I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I've stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, preached up for the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till he comes, give 'till I drop, preach till all know, and work till he stops me. And when he comes for his own, he'll have no problem recognizing me. My banner will be clear.

If you're an unashamed saint would you say, "Amen"? Amen and amen.