

From the Desk of Miss Wilber

October 23, 2020

Last week I wrote about the connection between courage and truth, and this week I'd like to write about the connection between courage and trust. As you may know, I stayed home for a couple of days this week to manage a cold. While I admit I very much dislike it when I have to stay home, missing all the joys of being here at school (and the inevitable backlog of work waiting for me upon my return), the time at home gave me the opportunity to read to completion a book I began last week.

If you have not read [The Hiding Place](#) by Corrie Ten Boom, I highly recommend it. Ms. Ten Boom lived in Holland during the German occupation of World War II. People in need began coming to her door for help and no matter who came she did whatever she could to help them. Her efforts to protect the lives of her fellow countrymen at risk (of whom many were Jews, but not all) led to the development of an underground system that spread throughout all of Holland. It took many years, but eventually she was found out, arrested, and transferred to Ravensbruck, a German concentration camp for women.

My mind is full of many thought-provoking aspects of her story, but I am going to focus here on the profound trust in God demonstrated by many characters in the book. On reflection, I realize that it was their trust in Him that gave them the courage they needed to act heroically in the face of danger, in the face of evil. Ms. Ten Boom and her family members and friends relied on God's providence every step of the way (though I appreciate that she portrays even the moments of faltering in that faith). Upon returning to Holland after being released from Ravensbruck, Ms. Ten Boom attempted to continue work with the underground, but she found that her nerve was not as it had been before her arrest. She relates how she felt, as follows;

"I stood thankfully on the sidewalk until my knees stopped knocking. If I had ever needed proof that I had no boldness or cleverness of my own, I had it now. Whatever bravery, or skill I had ever shown were gifts of God – sheer loans from Him of the talent needed to do a job. And it was clear, from the absence of such skills now, that this was no longer His work for me."

After that experience, she remembered that her dear sister, who she lost to death in the concentration camp, had said that they must tell people about their experiences and what they learned. She decides to start speaking "the message that joy runs deeper than despair". The connection between trust and courage can be clearly seen in Ms. Ten Boom's statement about starting new work. "If this was God's new work for me, then He would provide the courage and the words." She trusted that God was leading her, and that trust gave her courage.

I believe that the more we trust in the Lord, the more natural courage becomes. In the face of fear, we should remind ourselves, and each other, of the truth; the truth of who God is and how much He loves and cares for us. If you are unconvinced by my meager efforts to express this, then again I recommend you find a copy of the story of Ms. Ten Boom, a woman whose life is a testament to God's love and God's power in our broken world.

Sincerely,
Miss Wilber

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." – Proverbs 3:5-6