

Transforming Daily
“ . . . be of good courage, and do it . . . ”
Ezra 10:4

It is one thing to have courage. It is another thing to exercise courage. Courage has purpose. Random acts (if such a thing exists) are not of courage. Courage is often linked to conviction. One is convicted by or about something and then acts accordingly to support said conviction.

“Just do it!” is, or at least was, an advertisement slogan for Nike sportswear. The whole premise of the slogan emphasized the courage and commitment in the heart and mind of an athlete. One of courage is already convinced of the basic fundamentals of involvement. They have been convinced of the merits inherent in accomplishing a specific task. The individual exhibiting such characteristics is said to be up for the challenge.

In a word, “responsibility” is the foundation for conviction, courage, and commitment. When an individual realizes or assumes responsibility for a specific set of circumstances or events, conviction is usually simultaneously realized. Conviction then stimulates courage, and in turn, courage calls for commitment.

What a person does with respect to personal commitment is usually in direct proportion to their understanding of responsibility (a point of personal integrity that seems to have been abandoned by non-believers as well as by many believers in the latter part of the twentieth century, and continues to be the case as we have entered into the twenty-first century these ten years).

The conduct of the believer, after having come to faith in Christ, is to grow in the knowledge and grace of the Savior. The knowledge and grace of the Savior develops the believer into a responsible follower of Christ committed to the instruction and indoctrination by Scripture. Discipleship training leads a believer to a sense of sustained conviction, courage, and commitment. Therefore the believer’s responsibility is to be of good courage, and do it.