

No. 1      Chairman's Address: Jehovah—The Source of True Courage

[Please note: This talk includes five videos]

WELCOME TO OUR CONVENTION! (4 min.)

It is a joy to see all of you here at the 2018 "Be Courageous"!

Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses; we want you to feel welcome

What a wonderful three days we have ahead of us!

As we have already heard and seen, the session begins with a beautiful set of songs and a stirring video that sets the tone for what follows

[Briefly mention what was shown in the first music-video

presentation and how that should have prepared our hearts for the opening session]

Can you be seated *before* the music video begins for each session?

The printed program shows when each one starts; keep an eye on

the time so that you will not be late getting to your seat

Please *quietly* listen to and watch the music videos instead of conversing with those around you; everyone will thus be able to benefit fully

This year's convention builds on the programs that were presented during the last two years

The 2016 convention highlighted the need for *loyalty* to Jehovah

We learned that drawing close to Jehovah gives us the strength and stability to overcome the most daunting obstacles

The 2017 program helped us strengthen our powers of *endurance*

We learned that our endurance does not depend on favorable circumstances; it results from reliance on Jehovah

This year we concentrate on cultivating the quality of *courage*

We will learn that it is not our abilities that determine whether we are courageous—it is our spirituality

Listen as Brother Samuel Herd of the Governing Body explains why this convention theme was chosen

VIDEO (3 min.)

ALL SERVANTS OF GOD MUST "BE COURAGEOUS" (6 min.)

God's servants have always needed courage to remain faithful

Would you say that you are a courageous person?

That is, a person who has the mental, moral, and spiritual strength to face hardship, opposition, or danger without being overcome by fear?

Likely, all of us wish that we had more courage, but what is courage?

It is the quality of being strong, bold, and valiant; it is the opposite of timidity or cowardice [Read 2 Timothy 1:7]

Being courageous does not mean never being afraid; rather, it means taking action in spite of our fears (w12 1/1 7 ¶1)

A courageous heart does not "melt" in fear (Jos 14:6-8, ftn.)

It is "resolute; steady" [Read Psalm 112:7, 8, ftn.]

We know we are going to need to be courageous as we face future events [Refer to Brother Herd's comments in the preceding video regarding the need for courage during the great tribulation]

But we also need courage right now to meet the trials that come upon us during these critical last days

Facing them will strengthen us to endure more intense future tests of our faith [Read Psalm 31:24]

JEHOVAH IS OUR SOURCE FOR TRUE COURAGE (7 min.)

True courage is not a quality that we are born with; it must be cultivated, but how?

By turning to the Source [Read Psalm 28:7]  
God's Word contains a rich supply of examples of courageous people  
Joshua was just such a man

He and Caleb were the only chieftains who had faith that Jehovah  
would give the Israelites victory if they seized from the  
Canaanites the land God had promised them (Nu 13:1, 2; 14:6-9)

Joshua's story is in *Lessons You Can Learn From the Bible*

Are you not happy to have received that beautiful book last year?  
Remember, these are not just stories; we can learn valuable  
lessons from them

Consider lesson 29: "Jehovah Chose Joshua"

[Video crew begins 40-second video showing Moses commissioning Joshua.  
While the artwork displays, briefly paraphrase the first three  
paragraphs of lesson 29]

That is the story of Joshua, but what lesson can we learn from it?

Jehovah knew that Joshua needed courage to lead the Israelites into  
the Promised Land and to defeat the powerful Canaanite kings; that  
is why God repeatedly told him: "Be courageous" (Jos 1:6, 7, 9)

Joshua's strength was based on faith that Jehovah, the Almighty,  
would be with him (Jos 1:1-6; 23:14)

Strong faith is the foundation for real courage—the stronger our  
faith, the greater our courage

For Joshua to maintain courage, he needed to read the book of the Law  
"day and night" and to apply it carefully [Read Joshua 1:7-9]

[Video crew begins 20-second video showing Joshua reading God's Law.  
While the artwork displays, discuss the following points]

Like Joshua, we can strengthen our faith and courage by reading  
God's Word every day

We can also appeal to Jehovah to allay our fears (Heb 13:6)

We admire the courage of modern-day Christians

During World War II, many of Jehovah's Witnesses valiantly refused  
to betray their brothers and sisters to the opposers

One such brother was Herman van Elburg; here is his story

VIDEO (3 min.)

THREE DAYS OF TRAINING ON HOW TO BUILD UP OUR COURAGE (5 min.)

Do you want to have courage like that of Brother van Elburg?

Think of this convention as a three-day training program that will  
include talks, symposiums, interviews, a feature film, and many  
videos that will teach us how to "be courageous"

Open your program, and look at what lies ahead

[Highlight each day's Scriptural theme, and then build anticipation  
for key portions of the program]

DAY 1: "Be courageous and very strong" (Jos 1:7)

The first symposium will set the stage for what follows, as it  
discusses "Why True Christians Need Courage"

The second symposium will contrast six things that can weaken  
courage with six things that can strengthen it

The last symposium today will highlight the risks and rewards  
experienced by ancient and modern-day servants of God

[Highlight the last talk of the day]

DAY 2: *"Showing all the more courage to speak the word of God fearlessly"* (Php 1:14)

The first symposium of the day will present actual case histories of those who bravely conquered their fears

The second symposium is another study in contrasts, between those who are cowards and those who are courageous

The third symposium turns to animal creation for lessons in courage

The last symposium will report on how our brothers around the world are valiantly meeting various challenges

[Highlight the baptism talk and the last talk of the day]

DAY 3: *"Be courageous and strong of heart. Yes, hope in Jehovah"* (Ps 27:14)

The symposium will discuss seven thrilling future events and what we must do *now* to develop the courage we will need *then*

[Highlight the public discourse, the feature film, and the last talk of the day]

The following video is a preview of the videos that we will enjoy throughout the program

[Video crew begins one-minute trailer of the convention videos]

Some videos will present actual experiences; other videos will be dramatizations

Dramatizations do not portray real events or people; they depict *realistic* situations, and they convey *real truths*

WHAT WILL WE LEARN AT THIS CONVENTION? (1 min.)

We will learn how the quality of courage helps us accomplish all that is involved in being a Christian

We will learn that to remain courageous, we must continue to strengthen our spirituality and our faith and trust in Jehovah

We will learn how to conquer our fears rather than submit to them

Also, we will learn how we can develop the courage we will need to face the events leading up to Armageddon

Most important, we will leave this convention knowing how to rely every day on Jehovah—the Source of true courage

TO BE COVERED IN 29 MINUTES

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