

COURAGE

In the well known story, “The Wizard of Oz”, the character Lion has the ironic circumstance of lacking courage. He as well as his three companions call upon the “wizard” to grant them a gift or need; in the case of the Lion, it is courage that he needs over his present, cowardly disposition.

Another illustration of courage comes in the well-known book-made movie, “The Red Badge of Courage” by Stephen Crane. In the story, a young man develops courage through the experience of battle. Placed in the Civil War, the story paints vivid images of each scene as the reader places himself in the very soul of this developing soldier. The soldier has a very idealistic view of battle at the beginning of the story; and confronted by the realities of battle and deaths, he cowers to the onslaught of the enemy. In a transforming moment, in which he is wounded, the fear that so gripped him gives way to courage. Even so, the soldier must contend with guilt over the tragedy and losses of battle.

In 1933, our president-elect, Franklin D. Roosevelt, made an appeal for Americans. In his speech, he comments that *the only thing we have to fear is fear itself*; in other words, Americans must stop thinking in the past and dwelling on hard times (The Great Depression) and look to a future with promise. To understand the challenge of his appeal would require some understanding of the economy in the 1930’s; but in short, it was time of staggering unemployment, loss, and hardship. The charge of the President was resolute: fear must first be overcome; in turn, the great odds before the country would be overcome.



As believers, we are empowered to be fearless; in fact, the command, “fear not” is used more often in the Bible than any other introduction. Among the many versus, be encouraged by the one below.

**Wait patiently for the Lord. Be Brave and
Courageous.
Yes, wait patiently for the Lord.**

In a WORD