

## **THIS IS MY COMMAND—BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS!**

---

*Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!*  
(Psalm 31:24 ESV)

*Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!*  
(Psalm 27:14 ESV)

*This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged.  
For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*  
(Joshua 1:9 NLT)

*So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the Lord your  
God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.*  
(Deuteronomy 31:6 NLT)

**DO NOT** LET YOUR HEARTS BE  
TROUBLED. YOU BELIEVE IN GOD;  
BELIEVE ALSO IN ME.  
(JOHN 14:1 NIV)

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I  
give you. I do not give to you as the  
world gives. **DO NOT** let your hearts  
be troubled and **DO NOT** be afraid.*  
(John 14:27 NIV)



**BOOKEND COMMANDS FOR PEACE AND COURAGE**

**JOHN 14:1—JOHN 14:27**

## **IN JOHN 14 OUR LORD TEACHES US HOW TO BELIEVE AND OBEY THESE "BOOKEND" TRUTHS!**

**DO NOT** LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED. YOU BELIEVE IN GOD; BELIEVE ALSO IN ME.

(JOHN 14:1 NIV)

**DO NOT** let your hearts be troubled and **DO NOT** be afraid.

(John 14:27b NIV)

**(John 14:1-31 NIV)**

### **1. Bookend #1: Do not be upset but believe God and believe Jesus.**

- (John 14:1 NIV) Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

### **2. Jesus tells them that what he says is true and that he, in fact, is the truth.**

- (John 14:2-6 NIV) My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" 6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

### **3. Jesus explains to them that they should really understand his relationship with the Father by now.**

- (John 14:7-10 NIV) If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." 8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." 9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

### **4. Jesus exhorts them to weigh the evidence and believe what he is saying.**

- (John 14:11-14 NIV) Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. 12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

### **5. Jesus speaks to the powerful relationship between love for him and obedience to him.**

- (John 14:15-17 NIV) If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

### **6. Jesus assures them of the life they have in him and that he will continue to care for them.**

- (John 14:18-20 NIV) I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

### **7. Jesus reiterates the affirmation that comes from the Father to the one who has the commands and keeps them.**

- (John 14:21 NIV) Whoever has my

commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.

### 8. Jesus gives them amazing, amazing insight into "seeing" him as this is directly connected to loving him and obeying his teaching.

- (John 14:22–24 NIV) Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" 23 Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

### 9. Jesus prepares them for his continuing care for them through the Holy Spirit.

- (John 14:25–26 NIV) All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

### 10. Bookend #2: Jesus explains the peace he gives and commands them to rest in his peace.

- (John 14:27 NIV) Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

### 11. Jesus explains the joy they should be experiencing and the example they give to the world by their love for the Father by doing exactly what the Father commands.

- (John 14:28–31 NIV) You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. 29 I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. 30 I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, 31 but he comes so that the

world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me. "Come now; let us leave.

- 
- (Psalm 27:1–5 ESV) The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? 2 When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. 3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident. 4 One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. 5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

#### **INSIGHT ...**

- (Philippians 4:4–7 NIV) Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

#### **INSIGHT ...**

- (Psalm 33:13–22 ESV) The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; 14 from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, 15 he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds. 16 The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. 17 The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue. 18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, 19 that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. 20 Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. 21 For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. 22 Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

**INSIGHT ...**

- (Psalm 56:3–4 ESV) When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. 4 In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?
- (Psalm 56:10–11 ESV) In God, whose word I praise, in the LORD, whose word I praise, 11 in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?

**INSIGHT ...**

- (Proverbs 3:21–26 ESV) My son, do not lose sight of these— keep sound wisdom and discretion, 22 and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck. 23 Then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot will not stumble. 24 If you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. 25 Do not be afraid of sudden terror or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes, 26 for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught.

**INSIGHT ...**

- (Isaiah 44:6–8 ESV) Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. 7 Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. 8 Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.”

**INSIGHT ...**