

**IDOP 2024**

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR  
THE PERSECUTED CHURCH**

**COURAGEOUS FAITH**

**3RD AND 10TH NOVEMBER 2024**

**BIBLE STUDY**



Scripture

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIV)

## Part 1

# STRENGTHENED BY GOD'S PRESENCE

## Introduction

The first session as part of this two-part bible study series focuses on the assurance of God's presence in the midst of trials and persecution. Deuteronomy 31:6 serves as a powerful reminder that God's people are never alone, even when facing opposition and hostility. This session is aimed at encouraging believers to draw strength and courage from the unwavering presence of God, just as Moses encouraged the Israelites before they entered the Promised Land.

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## Key Points

### 1. Understanding the Context

Deuteronomy 31:6 is part of Moses' farewell speech to the Israelites. He was preparing them for his departure and reminding them that even though he would not be with them, God would be. The verse was meant to bolster their faith as they faced the uncertainties of entering a new land.

Similarly, persecuted Christians today face immense challenges as they stand firm in their faith. The reminder of God's abiding presence is as relevant now as it was then.

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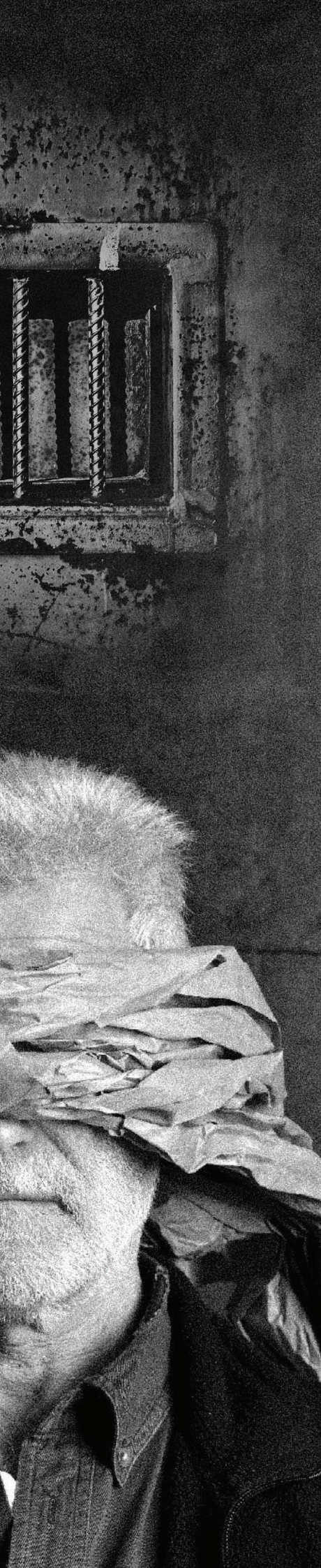
### 2. God's Promise of Presence

The promise that God "will never leave you nor forsake you" is foundational for a life of faith. Persecuted Christians may feel isolated or abandoned, but this promise assures them that God is always with them, providing strength and courage.

Reflect on how this assurance can inspire us to pray for and support our persecuted brothers and sisters, knowing that God's presence is their source of resilience.

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### 3.Application

**Personal Reflection.** In what areas of your life do you need to be reminded of God's constant presence? How does this assurance change your perspective on challenges you face?

**Corporate Prayer.** Pray for persecuted Christians, asking God to strengthen their faith with the knowledge of His presence. Pray that they may feel God's comforting and empowering presence even in their darkest moments.

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## Discussion Questions

How does the promise of God's presence help us to be courageous in the face of life's trials and tribulations?

What can we learn from the faith of persecuted Christians that can strengthen our own faith journeys?

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## Closing Prayer

Thank God for His unwavering presence and ask for the courage to stand firm in faith, just as our persecuted brothers and sisters do. Pray for their continued resilience and for the global Church to remain steadfast in prayer and support.

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## Part 2

# LIVING WITH COURAGEOUS FAITH

## Introduction

The second session as part of this two-part bible study series emphasizes the active response to God's call to be strong and courageous. Based on the assurance of God's presence, this session explores how believers are called to live out a courageous faith in a world that often opposes the message of the Gospel.

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## Key Points

### 1. Courageous Faith in Action

Courageous faith is not merely about enduring persecution but actively standing for truth and righteousness in the face of opposition. This type of faith is exemplified by persecuted Christians who continue to worship, witness, and serve despite the daunting challenges they face.

Explore biblical examples of courageous faith, such as Daniel in the lion's den (Daniel 6) or Peter and John before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4). These stories illustrate the power of faith that is both courageous and contagious.

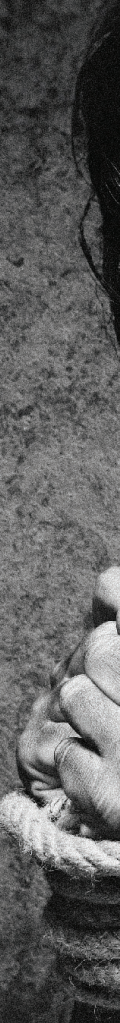
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### 2. Responding to Persecution

Jesus taught that persecution is part of the Christian experience (John 15:18-21). Rather than fearing it, believers are called to respond with faith and courage, trusting that God is sovereign over all circumstances.

Consider the importance of the global Church's role in standing with the persecuted. Our prayers, advocacy, and support are vital expressions of courageous faith that unite us with those who share our faith but not our freedoms.

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### 3. Application

**Personal Reflection.** What steps can you take to live out a more courageous faith in your daily life? How can you stand for Christ in your community, even if it means facing opposition?

**Corporate Action.** Explore ways your church or community can support persecuted Christians, whether through prayer, giving, or raising awareness. Consider how your actions can encourage others to stand firm in their faith.

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## Discussion Questions

What does courageous faith look like in your own context? How can we cultivate this kind of faith in our communities?

In what ways can the Church better support those who are persecuted for their faith?

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## Closing Prayer

Pray for a deepening of courageous faith in your life and in the global Church. Ask God to strengthen persecuted Christians and to use their testimony to inspire faith and courage in others. Pray for the strength to take action in support of those who suffer for Christ's name.

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Organised by the World Evangelical Alliance,  
the IDOP is an annual, global event that unites  
Christians in prayer for the persecuted Church.

