\*BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS IN THE LORD!\*

The journey of life is full of challenges and adversities that create fear in the minds of people.

However, in order to be able to cope with the kind of trials and opposition that we experience in life, the bible encourages us to:

\*"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”\*

Deu 31:6

Apparently, the phrase: " \*Be strong and courageous"\* does not imply that you rely on your strength to overcome issues of life.

The story of David and Goliath is one remarkable story that underscore the biblical connotation of being strong and courageous.

The bible recorded that Goliath had terrorised the children of Isreal for forty days and nobody was able to challenge him.

Without doubt, he was very strong and courageous to have been able to traumatised a whole nation in the manner he did it.

Unfortunately, Goliath was merely relying on his physical attributes and strength when he threatened the children of Isreal.

The bible described him:

 \*"Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall"\*

1 Sam 17:4

In addition to his physical size, he had heavy armour of coverings and weapons all over his body

\*1 Sam 17:5-8\*

On the contrary, an unknown; shepherd boy in David also exhibited courage by volunteering to fight Goliath.

On the face of the physical attributes and experience in fighting war with weapons, David does not stand any chance with Goliath.

That was why King Saul said to David;

 \*“You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth.”\*

1 Sam 17:33.

However, when David got to the battle front to fight Goliath, he revealed the source of his courage as he said to Goliath:

 \*“You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied".\*

1 Sam 17:45.

 \*David killed Goliath because God was involved.\*

Similarly, after the death of Moses, God told Joshua:

 \*"No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you".\*

Joshua 1:5

Joshua, who had succeeded Moses as leader of the Isrealites needed assurances from God because of the task at hand.

God reiterated to Joshua to be \*strong and courageous\* three times, at the third time, God said:

 \*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."\*

Joshua 1:9.

 \*When God calls us for a task, He equips us with what it takes to accomplish the assignment.\*

However, \*God requires us to exhibit courageous attitude even in the face of trials;\*

For God said:

 \*"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand".\*

Isaiah 41:10.

Irrespective of the challenges you are confronted with, I say to you;

 \*Be strong and courageous\*.

 \*PRAYER\* The presence of God shall be with you everyday of your life and you will be courageous to overcome every issues that confronts you in Jesus name 🙏🏼.

The courage you should exhibit comes from the backdrop of an intimate relationship you need to develop with God knowing God's presence is always with you.

When the disciples saw someone walking on the sea, they were terrified thinking it was a Ghost;

But Jesus immediately said to them:

\*"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."\*

Matthew 14:27.

Then Simon Peter said to our Lord Jesus:

 \*"Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water."\*

Matthew 14:28

Peter had courage to walk on water because Jesus was there with him.

In conclusion,

 \*"Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might".\*

Eph 6:10.

 \*JESUS RULES\*

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Signed, Bro Cole