



“Courageous commitment, stemming from strong convictions, is an essential quality found in all those whom God chooses to lead. ... Paul was repeatedly warned of the trials and persecution he would face when he reached Jerusalem. Despite those warnings, he never wavered in his conviction that he was to fulfill God’s will in the matter, which gave him the courage to see his ministry through no matter what the personal consequences.” John MacArthur

Acts 21:1-16 Now it came to pass, that when we had departed from them and set sail, running a straight course we came to Cos, the following *day* to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. ² And finding a ship sailing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail. ³ When we had sighted Cyprus, we passed it on the left, sailed to Syria, and landed at Tyre; for there the ship was to unload her cargo. ⁴ And finding disciples, we stayed there seven days. They told Paul through the Spirit not to go up to Jerusalem. ⁵ When we had come to the end of those days, we departed and went on our way; and they all accompanied us, with wives and children, till we were out of the city. And we knelt down on the shore and prayed. ⁶ When we had taken our leave of one another, we boarded the ship, and they returned home. ⁷ And when we had finished our voyage from Tyre, we came to Ptolemais, greeted the brethren, and stayed with them one day. ⁸ On the next day we who were Paul’s companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.

⁹ Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. ¹⁰ And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹ When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" ¹² Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³ Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." ¹⁴ So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, "The will of the Lord be done." ¹⁵ And after those days we packed and went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁶ Also some of the disciples from Caesarea went with us and brought with them a certain Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we were to lodge.

1. Courage of conviction focuses on the purpose

- Conviction presupposes a clear purpose
- The details of Paul's trip portray a man driven to fulfill his purpose – it was a priority to him.

2. Courage of conviction is marked by persistence

- The church in Tyre was founded by believers escaping persecution in Jerusalem by Paul (Acts 8:1)

2 Cor 11:28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

- Neither the threat of persecution nor the pleadings of well-meaning believers could divert Paul from fulfilling his calling.

“Such is the fellowship of the church. Paul was not personally known to many at Tyre, and his companions were complete strangers, but by the end of the week links of Christian love had been forged and the believers felt as though they had known one another for years. The world knows nothing like it; no lodge or club or fraternity offers anything to compare with the fellowship of saints. A child of God is a member of a family, a real family, and one in which the ties are often more binding than those in one’s own human family.” John Phillips

3. Courage of conviction pays any price necessary

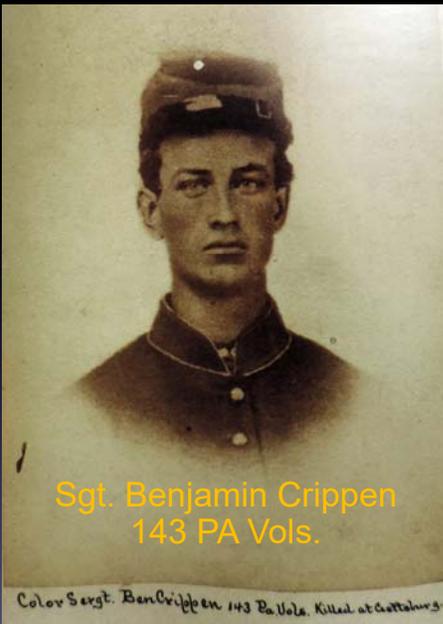
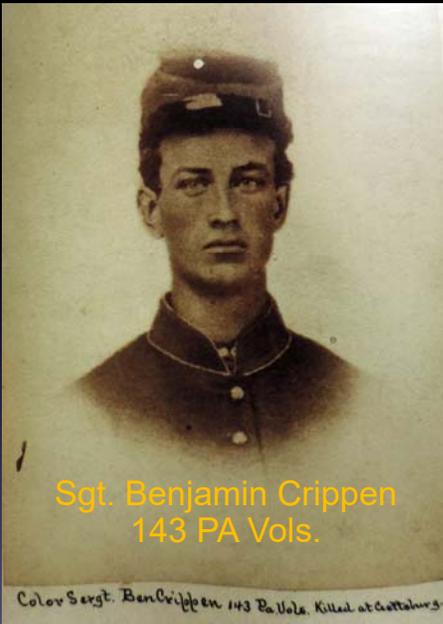
Ezk 3:8-9 Behold, I have made your face strong against their faces, and your forehead strong against their foreheads. Like adamant stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead; do not be afraid of them, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they are a rebellious house.”

Lk 22:42 And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, ⁴² saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”

4. Courage of conviction becomes powerfully persuasive

Acts 20:17 Also some of the disciples from Caesarea went with us and brought with them a certain Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we were to lodge.

Phil 1:14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.



“The Pennsylvanians broke and ran again – to be stopped, incomprehensibly, a few yards in the rear by a boyish private who stood on a little hillock and kept swinging his hat, shouting: ‘Rally boys, rally! Die like men, don’t run like dogs!’ Strangely, on that desperate field where men were madly heroic and full of abject panic by turns, this lone private stopped the retreat.” Bruce Catton, *Mr. Lincoln’s Army*