

Pk's Perspectives ... Fortitude

Fortitude - courage in pain or adversity. As in, "She endured her illness with great fortitude." I'm not sure fortitude is an attribute that can be produced on demand; fortitude results from an already deep personal character that is anchored to absolute truth, faith in something larger than self, and abundant hope. Fortitude is not so much a superficial emotional response to pain or adversity; fortitude is a visceral gut-check that finds deep reserves of courage and mental strength in the face of pain and adversity. Francis Bacon once wrote, "Fortitude is the marshal of thought, the armor of the will, and the fort of reason."

These days through which we currently walk call for men and women of great fortitude. Are you such a person? Are you discovering deep in your soul the reserves of faith, courage, and mental strength necessary to stay the course in the constantly changing winds of pandemic pronouncements, political pandering, and cultural unrest? Erich Fromm said, "Fortitude is the capacity to say 'No' when the world wants to hear 'Yes.'" Do you possess such fortitude?

Followers of Jesus Christ should possess profound fortitude. Christians are grounded in an eternal AND temporal hope; Christians know God has provided for eternity AND God is faithfully providing for our journey on earth. Christians are in intimate relationship and fellowship with an amazingly powerful, all-knowing, never changing, sovereign God. Followers of Jesus rely on the supernatural strength of the Holy Spirit when facing the day and understand that our human weakness gives rise to His incredible strength. Christians understand the only perfectly reliable source of fortitude is found in Jesus, which is why Scripture instructs us to "...keep our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that lay before Him endured a cross and despised the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of God's throne." (Hebrews 11:2) The fortitude produced by faith enables the follower of Christ to trumpet with certainty, "It's Friday...but Sunday's coming."

It will require of you fortitude to resist sliding into the emotional abyss of negativity, anxiety, hopelessness, and/or judgmental, condemning, critical thinking during these restless days. Again, I point you to Hebrews 11:2.

It will require of you fortitude to endure while also holding tightly to your joy in Christ. Will these days of uncertainty lead to supernatural spiritual revival in our nation? Our world? Maybe; we pray so. Will these days of uncertainty lead to even darker days of rebellion in our nation? Maybe; we pray not. Do you possess the fortitude to courageously face whatever tomorrow brings, knowing that God is working His will in all things?

It will require of you fortitude to defend your faith in Christ, defend your belief in Biblical truth, and offer your defense with deep compassion and unconditional love even though your livelihood may be threatened, or your character maligned. It will require of you fortitude to choose the glory of Christ over the desire for personal vindication.

Take a minute to dwell on these words from St. Augustine: "Fortitude is the disposition of soul which enables us to despise all inconveniences and the loss of things not in our power." Grace & peace...love you, PK.