

Extraordinary Courage

October 17th, 2010

as James was led to the place of martyrdom, his accuser was brought to repent of his conduct by the apostle's extraordinary courage and undauntedness, and fell down at his feet to request his pardon, professing himself a Christian, and resolving that James should not receive the crown of martyrdom alone. Hence they were both beheaded at the same time. Thus did the first apostolic martyr cheerfully and resolutely receive that cup, which he had told our Savior he was ready to drink.

Fox's Book of Martyrs - The Martyrdom of James the Great

“My lads,” the captain shouted, “everything has been done for the ship that could be done, but as you see for yourselves our efforts have been in vain. I trust that you will all get ashore, but as far as we can see at present the rocks are almost precipitous, and, high as they are, the spray flies right over them. I thank you all for your good conduct while the ship has been in commission, and am sure that you will know how to die, and will preserve your calm and courage till the end. Go to your stations and remain there until she is about to strike; then each man must make the best fight for life that he can.”

By Conduct and Courage - G.A. Henty - p 108-109

The Extraordinary Attitude

. . . to die is gain.
- Paul

Take it Patiently

. . . when you do well, and suffer for it, [and] **you take it patiently**,
this is acceptable with God.
1st Peter 2:20

Hypomenō - Hü-po-me'-nō

The Brave Calm and Steadfast Courage of the Christian Soul

to remain unmoved, to not recede or flee, to stand fast amidst the most most
severe misfortunes and trials and to hold fast one's faith in Christ to the end; to
endure and bear ill treatments bravely and calmly.

And you shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that
shall **endure** unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Mark 13:13

And you shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that
shall **show a brave calm and a steadfast courage** unto the
end, the same shall be saved.

Mark 13:13

Rejoicing in hope; **patient** in tribulation; continuing instant in
prayer.

Romans 12:12

Rejoicing in hope; **showing a brave calm and a steadfast
courage** in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer.

Romans 12:12

Love . . . beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things,
endureth all things.

1st Corinthians 13:7

Love . . . beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things,
shows a brave calm and a steadfast courage in all
things.

1st Corinthians 13:7

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the
joy that was set before him **endured** the cross, despising the
shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For
consider him that **endured** such contradiction of sinners against
himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Hebrews 12:2-3

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the
joy that was set before him **with a brave calm and a
steadfast courage endured** the cross, despising the shame,
and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider
him that **so bravely and courageously endured** such
contradiction of sinners against himself, lest you be wearied and
faint in your minds.

Hebrews 12:2-3

Following the Example - Facing Death like Jesus

. . . when you do well, and suffer for it, [and] you take it patiently, this is
acceptable with God. For even hereunto were you called: because Christ also
suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps . . .

1st Peter 2:20b-21

Stephen was stoned, Philip was crucified, Matthew was slain with the sword,
James (the brother of Jesus) was stoned and clubbed, Matthias was stoned and

beheaded, Mark was dragged to pieces, Jude was crucified, Bartholomew was cruelly beaten and then crucified, Thomas was thrust through with a spear, Luke was hung, Simon was crucified, and John was thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil (and removed unscathed) and then exiled to Patmos.

❖ The Apostle Andrew

❖ Peter

Jerome saith that he was crucified, his head being down and his feet upward, himself so requiring, because he was (he said) unworthy to be crucified after the same form and manner as the Lord was.

Fox's Book of Martyrs - The Martyrdom of Peter

❖ Paul

. . . the soldiers came and led him out of the city to the place of execution, where he, after his prayers made, gave his neck to the sword.

Fox's Book of Martyrs - The Martyrdom of Paul

❖ Ignatius

. . . having come to Smyrna, he wrote to the Church at Rome, exhorting them not to use means for his deliverance from martyrdom, lest they should deprive him of that which he most longed and hoped for. "Now I begin to be a disciple. I care for nothing, of visible or invisible things, so that I may but win Christ. Let fire and the cross, let the companies of wild beasts, let breaking of bones and tearing of limbs, let the grinding of the whole body, and all the malice of the devil, come upon me; be it so, only may I win Christ Jesus!" And even when he was sentenced to be thrown to the beasts, such as the burning desire that he had to suffer, that

he spake, what time he heard the lions roaring, saying: "I am the wheat of Christ: I am going to be ground with the teeth of wild beasts, that I may be found pure bread."

Fox's Book of Martyrs -
The Third Persecution, Under Trajan, A.D. 108

❖ Eustachius

Eustachius, a brave and successful Roman commander, was by the emperor ordered to join in an idolatrous sacrifice to celebrate some of his own victories; but his faith (being a Christian in his heart) was so much greater than his vanity, that he nobly refused it. Enraged at the denial, the ungrateful emperor Adrian forgot the service of this skilful commander, and ordered him and his whole family to be martyred.

Fox's Book of Martyrs -
The Third Persecution, Under Trajan, A.D. 108

❖ Faustines and Jovita

At the martyrdom of Faustines and Jovita, brothers and citizens of Brescia, their torments were so many, and their patience so great, that Calocerius, a pagan, beholding them, was struck with admiration, and exclaimed in a kind of ecstasy, "Great is the God of the Christians!" for which he was apprehended, and suffered a similar fate.

Fox's Book of Martyrs -
The Third Persecution, Under Trajan, A.D. 108

❖ The Intrepidity of the Sufferers

The cruelties used in this persecution were such that many of the spectators shuddered with horror at the sight, and were astonished at the intrepidity of the sufferers. Some of the martyrs were obliged to pass, with their already wounded feet, over thorns, nails, sharp

shells, etc. upon their points, others were scourged until their sinews and veins lay bare, and after suffering the most excruciating tortures that could be devised, they were destroyed by the most terrible deaths.

Fox's Book of Martyrs -
The Fourth Persecution, Under Marcus Aurelius, A.D. 162

❖ Germanicus

Germanicus, a young man, but a true Christian, being delivered to the wild beasts on account of his faith, behaved with such astonishing courage that several pagans became converts to a faith which inspired such fortitude.

Fox's Book of Martyrs -
The Fourth Persecution, Under Marcus Aurelius, A.D. 162

❖ Polycarp

Polycarp, the venerable bishop of Smyrna, hearing that persons were seeking for him, escaped, but was discovered by a child. After feasting the guards who apprehended him, he desired an hour in prayer, which being allowed, he prayed with such fervency, that his guards repented that they had been instrumental in taking him. He was, however, carried before the proconsul, condemned, and burnt in the market place.

The proconsul then urged him, saying, "Swear, and I will release thee;--reproach Christ."

Polycarp answered, "Eighty and six years have I served him, and he never once wronged me; how then shall I blaspheme my King, Who hath saved me?" At the stake to which he was only tied, but not nailed as usual, as he assured them he should stand immovable, the flames, on their kindling the fagots, encircled his body, like an arch, without touching him; and the executioner, on seeing this, was ordered to pierce him with a sword, when so great a quantity of blood flowed out as extinguished the fire. But his body, at the

instigation of the enemies of the Gospel, especially Jews, was ordered to be consumed in the pile, and the request of his friends, who wished to give it Christian burial, rejected. They nevertheless collected his bones and as much of his remains as possible, and caused them to be decently interred.

Fox's Book of Martyrs -
The Fourth Persecution, Under Marcus Aurelius, A.D. 162

❖ The Pastor at the Stake

❖ Joshua Giavanello

Dying Today

The Brave Calm and Steadfast Courage in Everyday Life

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me,
let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34, Luke 9:23

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground
and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

John 12:24

As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are
accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are
more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Romans 8:36-37