

Our Worried Society

Trust in the LORD with **all your heart** and lean not on your **own understanding**; in **all your ways** submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)



We live in the time of the 24 hour news cycle

- Fires
- Floods
- Riots & unrest

In the Church of God, Our pastors alert us, and keep us watching:

- Radical Islamic Terrorism
- Socialism, Progressivism, Marxism, Leftism
- Open borders, globalism, secularism

Our children are being indoctrinated in ways we never expected (or noticed)

- Climate alarmism – existential crisis, “world will end in 12 years”
- Sex-Ed curriculum
- “Self Interest” says you vote for the one who will give you the most “free stuff”

Scripture provides us comfort ... yet we understand there is an end time generation that will see horrific things – Great Tribulation!

Do Not Be Anxious

Mat 6:25 "Therefore I say to you, **do not worry** about your **life**, what you will **eat** or what you will **drink**; nor about your **body**, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

Mat 6:26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly **Father feeds** them. Are you not of more value than they?

Mat 6:27 Which of you by **worrying** can add one cubit to his stature?

Mat 6:28 "So why do you **worry** about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil

Mat 6:29 and yet I say to you was not arrayed like one of

Mat 6:30 Now if God so today is, and tomorrow is **much more** clothe you, O you

Mat 6:31 "Therefore **do not** or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

Mat 6:32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly **Father knows** that you need all these things.

Mat 6:33 But **seek first** the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Mat 6:34 Therefore do not worry about **tomorrow**, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.

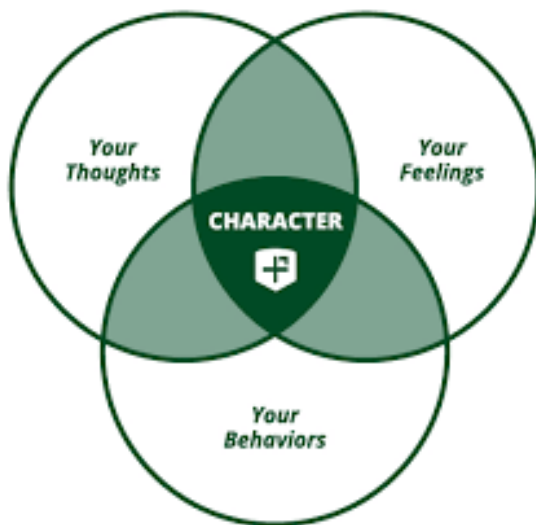


They (*good men*) will have **no fear of bad news**; their hearts are **steadfast, trusting** in the LORD. (Psalm 112:7)

At the Feast, I turned 59, & this year I am retired after 35 ½ years in the Computer/Networking field. I see things differently now, than I did as a teen in God's Church – just anticipating getting into the workforce! It is an awesome world ... but it can be a scary world too!

- I can go to a supermarket today, and can select things that Royalty did not have available, through much of the history of the world!
- We have fabulous communities, facilities, arts, technology, travel ...
- Yet, in 2008, we saw the world markets collapse ... and for a short time we saw countries would not loan money to each other – and even giant prosperous companies could not borrow money from the banks! It was a scary look of what collapse could look like & how quickly it could come!

We understand that God is building Character (now) in his children ...



Character = the mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual

HWA - I have defined character — that is, true, righteous, holy character — as:

- 1) coming to the **KNOWLEDGE** of the true, as opposed to the false values — the right, in stead of the wrong way;
- 2) making, of one's own free will and volition, the **choice** to do the **right** instead of the wrong;
- 3) the exercise of the will in actually **doing** the right instead of the wrong.

1-Know

Pro 18:15 The heart of the prudent **acquires knowledge**, And the ear of the wise seeks **knowledge**.

Psa 119:66 **Teach me** good judgment and **knowledge**, For I believe Your commandments.

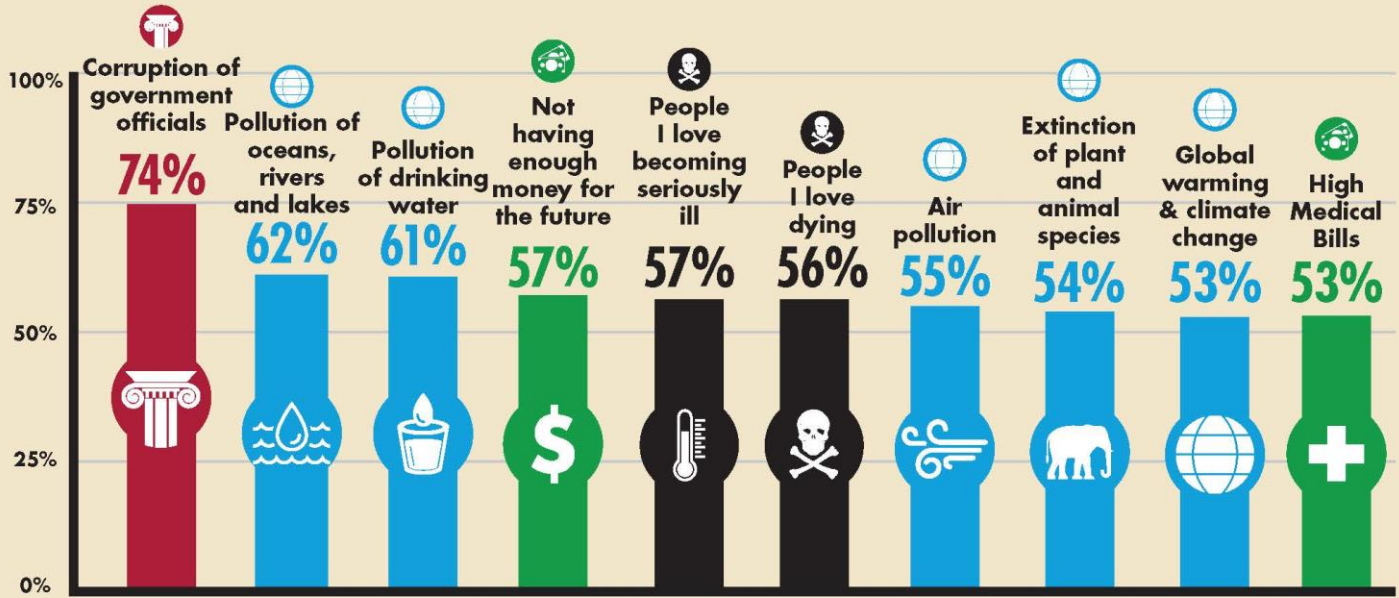
2-Choose

Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore **choose** life, that both you and your descendants may live

3-Do

Rom 2:7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in **doing good** seek for glory, honor, and immortality

Top 10 Fears of 2018



Above are the 10 fears for which the highest percentage of Americans reported being *afraid* or *very afraid*.

The Chapman University Survey of American Fears 2018



CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

Orange, California

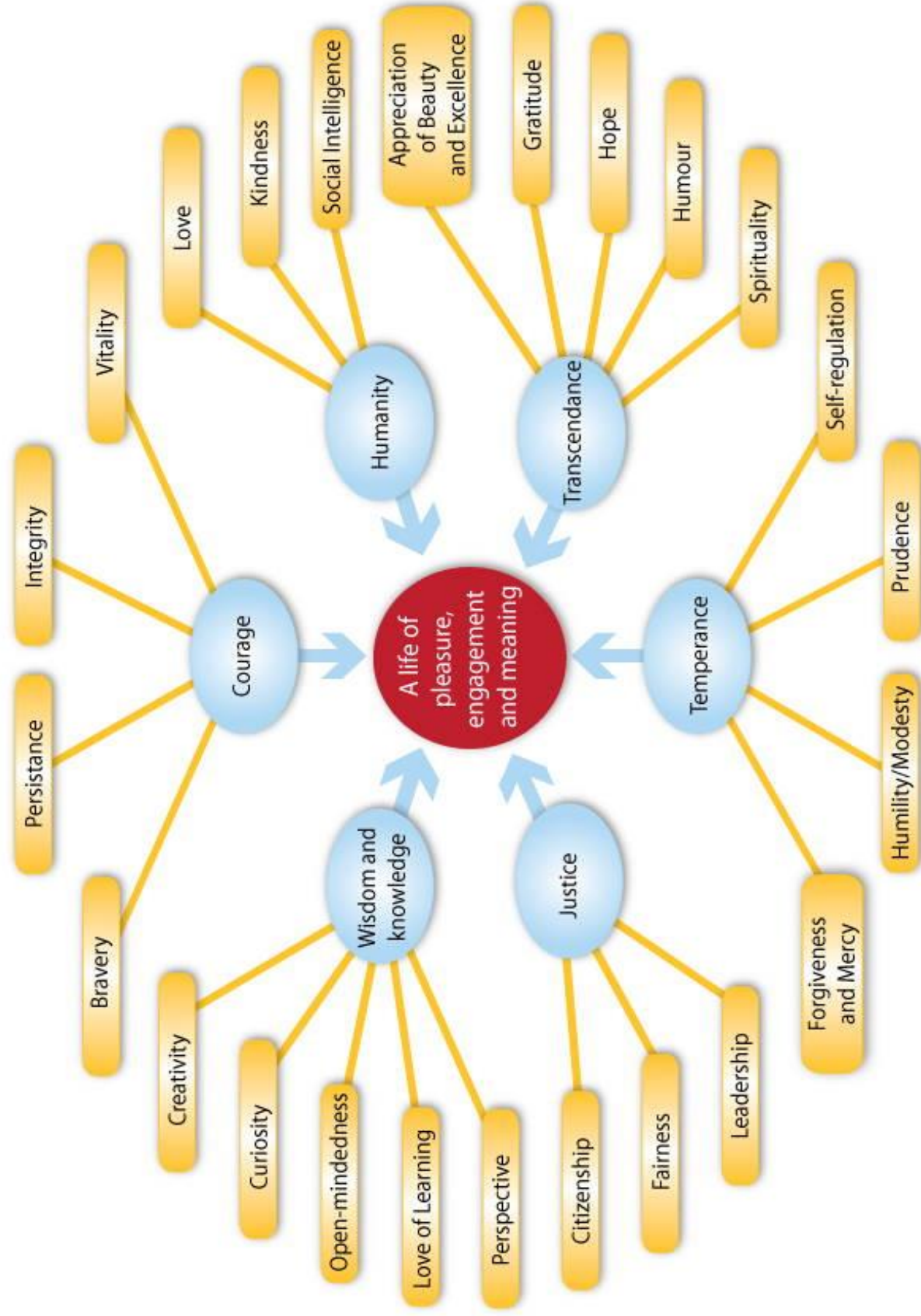
11. Cyber-Terrorism	52.5
12. The U.S. will be involved in another world war	51.6
13. Islamic extremists	49.3
14. White supremacists	49.3
15. Economic/financial collapse	49.2
16. Identity theft	46.6
17. Corporate tracking of personal data	46.3
18. Government tracking of personal data	46
19. Being hit by a drunk driver	45.3
20. Biological warfare	44.7
21. Becoming seriously ill	44.1
22. Oil spills	44
23. Terrorist attack	43.8
24. Widespread civil unrest	43
25. Nuclear weapons attack	42.9
26. Credit card fraud	42.6
27. Extreme anti-immigration groups	41.6
28. Random mass shooting	41.5
29. Terrorism	39.8
30. North Korea using nuclear weapons	39.2

31. The collapse of the electrical grid	39
32. Pandemic or a major epidemic	38.6
33. Government restrictions on firearms	37.8
34. Devastating drought	37.7
35. Iran using nuclear weapons	36.4
36. Losing my data, photos or other important documents in a disaster	36.3
37. Nuclear accident/meltdown	36
38. Break-ins	35.1
39. Devastating tornado	34.7
40. Being unemployed	34.4
41. Heights	33.6
42. Theft of property	33.3
43. Devastating hurricane	32.8
44. Government use of drones within the U.S.	32.3
45. Militia/patriot movement	31.3
46. Devastating flood	31.1
47. Devastating earthquake	30.9
48. Computers replacing people at work	30.7
49. Devastating wildfire	30.7
50. Murder by a stranger	29.7

53. **Hate Crime** – 28.6% 54. **Dying** – 27.9% 58. **Police Brutality** – 26.6% 64. **Hell** – 23.7%
 66. **Satan** – 23.1% 68. **Illegal Immigration** – 21.5% 71. **Antifa** – 20.7 79. **God** – 14.2

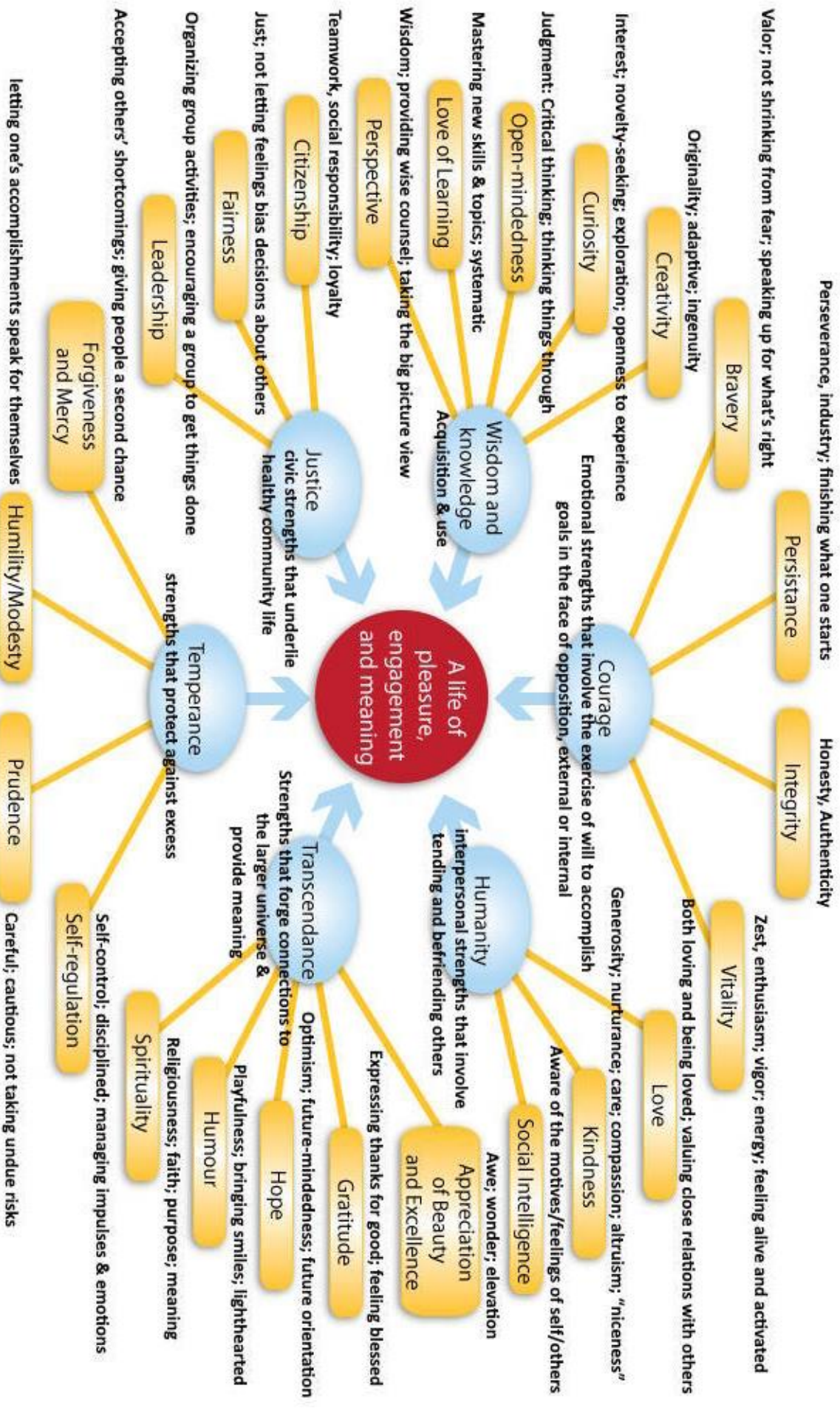
VIA Character Strengths & Virtues

(Peterson and Seligman, 2004)



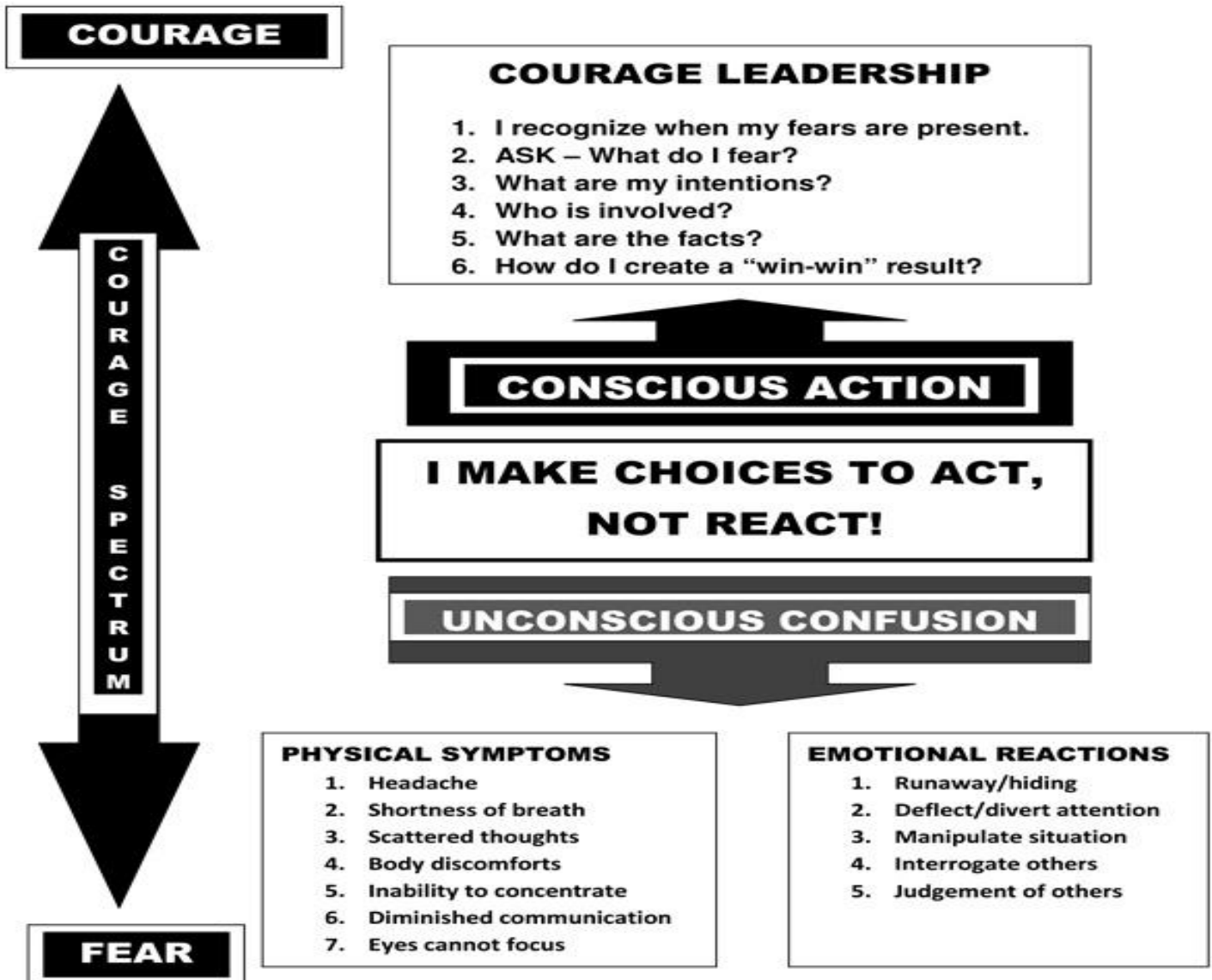
(Values in Action) VIA Character Strengths & Virtues

(Peterson and Seligman, 2004)



VALUES-BASED LEADERSHIP

From Fear Through Choice to Courage



1Sa 23:3 But David's men said to him, "Look, we are **afraid** (H3372-dread) here in Judah. How much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?"

1Sa 24:2 Then Saul took **three thousand** chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

1Sa 24:17 Then he said to David: "You *are* more righteous than I; ... **1Sa 24:19** Therefore **may the LORD reward you** with good for what you have done to me this day.



CHART MAGIC

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

- Winston Churchill



"To have courage for whatever comes in life - everything lies in that."

- Saint Teresa of Avila

"The greatest test of courage on earth is to bear defeat without losing heart."

- Robert Green Ingersoll

"Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear - not absence of fear."

- Mark Twain

Courage



"You cannot swim for new horizons until you have courage to lose sight of the shore."

- William Faulkner



"Have enough courage to trust love one more time and always one more time."

- Maya Angelou

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it's the courage to continue that counts."

- Winston Churchill

"A ship is safe in harbor, but that's not what ships are for."

- John A. Shedd



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David also said to Solomon his son, "Be **strong** and **courageous** and **do the work**. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished.1 (Chr 28:20)

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. **Let nothing move you**. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your **labor** in the Lord is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

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." Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the LORD swore to their ancestors to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance. The LORD Himself goes before you and will be with you; **He will never leave you nor forsake you**. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." (Deuteronomy 31:6-8)

Scriptural Examples of the Elements of Courage

Courage—emotional strengths that involve the **exercise of will** to **accomplish goals** in the face of **opposition, external or internal**

The Temptation of Jesus

Mat 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Mat 4:2 And when He had **fasted forty days and forty nights**, afterward He was hungry.

Mat 4:3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "**If** You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

Mat 4:4 But He answered and said, "**It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.'** "

Mat 4:5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,

Mat 4:6 and said to Him, "**If** You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'HE SHALL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE OVER YOU,' and, IN THEIR HANDS THEY SHALL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU DASH YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.' "

Mat 4:7 Jesus said to him, "**It is written again, 'YOU SHALL NOT TEMPT THE LORD YOUR GOD.'** "

Mat 4:8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

Mat 4:9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

Mat 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, "**Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND HIM ONLY YOU SHALL SERVE.'** "

Mat 4:11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

Bravery [valor]: Not shrinking from threat, challenge, difficulty, or pain; speaking up for what is right even if there is opposition; **acting on convictions** even if unpopular; includes physical bravery but is not limited to it

Neh 4:7 Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry,

Neh 4:8 and all of them conspired together to come *and* attack Jerusalem and create confusion.

Neh 4:13 Therefore I positioned *men* behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

Neh 4:14 And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses."

Neh 4:17 Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon.

Neh 4:18 Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built.

Persistence [perseverance, industriousness]: **Finishing** what one starts; persisting in a course of action in spite of **obstacles**; "getting it out the door"; taking pleasure in **completing** tasks

2Co 11:23 Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I *am* more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often.

2Co 11:24 From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one.

2Co 11:25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

2Co 11:26 in journeys often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils of *my own* countrymen, *in* perils of the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren;

2Co 11:27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—

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

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

Luk 18:1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

Luk 18:2 saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man.

Luk 18:3 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.'

Luk 18:4 And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man,

Luk 18:5 yet because this widow **troubles** me **I will avenge her**, lest by her **continual coming** she weary me.' "

Luk 18:6 Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said.

Luk 18:7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?

Luk 18:8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

Integrity [authenticity, honesty]: Speaking the **truth** but more broadly presenting oneself in a **genuine** way and acting in a **sincere** way; being without pretense; taking **responsibility** for one's feelings and actions

Dan 6:1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom;

Dan 6:2 and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel *was* one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss.

Dan 6:3 Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit *was* in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.

Dan 6:4 So the governors and satraps sought to find *some* charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he *was* faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.

Vitality [zest, enthusiasm, vigor, energy]: Approaching life with **excitement** and **energy**; not doing things halfway or halfheartedly; living life as an adventure; feeling alive and activated

Col 3:23 And **whatever** you do, do it **heartily**, as to the Lord and not to men

Gal 2:10 They (*Apostles in Jerusalem*) desired only that we should remember the poor, the **very thing** which I also was **eager** to do.

Act 17:11 These (*in Berea*) were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with **all readiness**, and **searched** the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.

Margaret is “wonderfully relentless” to keep the Ottawa church focused on our Vision doc. Please review and “be courageous” for what we might seek to accomplish in 2020!