

FEARLESS

How to live courageously for Christ in a chaotic world.



Pastor Hugh's new message series each Sunday, 10:00am

You Gotta Believe

John 14:1-14

Sept. 21, 2025

John 14:1-6

"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.² In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

- A. This morning I am starting a brand new series of messages about living courageously for Christ in a chaotic world.

How do you live for Jesus in a world that hates Jesus?
How do you live for Jesus in a world that rejects the ministry of Jesus, the morals of Jesus, and the message of Jesus?

And more importantly, how can you make a DIFFERENCE for Jesus in a world that is HOSTILE to Jesus?

- B. In fact, the world has an aggressive agenda concerning those who follow Jesus:
(1) Give up and Give in
Give up to changing their behaviors & beliefs, and give in to approving their behaviors & beliefs.

Or if you won't:

(2) The world wants to shut you down, shut you out, and shut you up.

- C. And tragically, that's why Charlie Kirk, was assassinated last week.
He wasn't just murdered. Charlie Kirk was martyred, because he stood up and stood out for Jesus.

Charlie Kirk never used hate speech.
He used speech the world hates.
And they took him out.
And they did so to silence you.

- D. But in taking him out, they raised up millions who will take his place.

Franklin Graham (spoke with The Christian Post)

"I hope this is going to raise up an army of young people who will take a stand for Jesus Christ, who are not afraid to speak out and not afraid that they're going to be attacked or accused," he said. "We have to take a stand and be open to the truth and not be afraid to speak the truth."

"I think Charlie's death put a huge spotlight on this truth: that Jesus Christ is God's Son," Graham told CP. "And so what the assassin, I'm sure, wanted to do was to shut Charlie up, to shut his mouth. The opposite effect is taking place."

Graham noted that "millions of people are talking about" the Gospel around the world in the wake of Kirk's assassination.

He said Charlie "is going to be remembered for his faith."

Let me encourage you to join the millions who will watch his memorial service this afternoon at 2pm.

And praise God Charlie is not dead, but very much alive in the presence of Jesus.

- E. So, today, Jesus wants to give you the tools for living a FEARLESS Christian life.

In fact, Jesus said

Jn. 16:33 (NAS)

³³ These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take **courage**; I have overcome the world."

Courage is not the absence of fear, but the conscience decision to act despite your fear; hence, to be fearless in the face of your foe.

And in Jn. 14:1, Jesus begins by saying
"Do not let your heart be troubled;"

- F. Jesus doesn't want you to go through life troubled; panicking; frightened.

Jesus doesn't want you to live for Him fearfully.
Jesus wants you to live for Him fearlessly.

- G. And Jesus His disciples 3 words about how to live a fearless Christian life.

How would you like to live a fearless Christian life?

1. Jesus has a Word about DOUBTING

Jn. 14:3-5

³ If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way where I am going." ⁵ Thomas

said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?”

- A. What do you know about the disciple, Thomas?
The 3 times he speaks in the gospels, he has doubts.

His most famous doubt was doubting Jesus had resurrected. “Unless I put my fingers in the nail prints in his hands and put my hand in his side, I will not believe” (Jn. 20:25)

And Jesus appeared, let Thomas touch him, and then told him, “Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” And Thomas famously said, “My Lord and my God.”

- B. And here in John 14, Thomas doubts the destination of Jesus (Where’s the Father’s House?) and subsequently, the way to get there.
“Jesus, if we don’t know where you are going, how can we know how to get there.”

Thomas was thinking in the natural, not the supernatural. He was operating in the flesh, not in faith!

- C. Now, let’s not be too hard on Thomas, the doubter. After all, without his question, we wouldn’t have Jesus’ most insightful answer, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.”

At least, Thomas is honest about his doubts.

And that leads me to share 3 important truths about how to get delivered from your doubts:

(1) Acknowledge Your Doubts

- (a) Thomas was not afraid to ask Jesus any questions. You’ve heard it said, there are no dumb questions. The only dumb question is the question that is not asked.
- (b) And if you are going to get delivered from your doubts, you’ve got to be willing to admit your doubt and ask your questions.
- (c) Jesus was not threatened by Thomas’ question. Jesus was not disappointed by Thomas’ question.

Jesus answered Thomas’ question.

- (d) And God is not threatened and disappointed by your questions. Go ahead and ask. Do you think He’s not big enough to handle your doubt or answer your question?

You’ve got to acknowledge your doubts.

(2) Analyze Your Doubts

- (a) Analyze the cause of your doubt.
Did you hear something or read something that made you question?
Are you wired to have to know everything before you believe?
Did God disappoint you? Did someone hurt you?
- (b) Whatever the reason for your doubt, be willing to talk with God about it; and others about it.

In fact, God will put people in your path who had the same reasons for doubting you do, and they will gladly help you get delivered from your doubts.

(3) Get Answers for Your Doubts

- (a) Do honest research.
It's one thing to doubt and do nothing.
It's another thing to doubt and do something about it.

Ex. Josh McDowell – doubted Christianity

Set out to disprove the resurrection.

And in his research he realized Jesus resurrected and trusted Jesus as His Savior and Lord.

- D. So, if you are going to live fearlessly for Jesus, you've got to first get delivered from your doubts.

Do you have any doubts?

You need to deal with them.

You can't have doubts about Jesus and live fearlessly for Jesus.

And Jesus wants you to be delivered from your doubts.
That's why He's given you a word about doubting.

2. Jesus has a Word about BELIEVING

Jn. 14:1, 6

"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

- A. Notice Jesus said, "believe in God, believe also in Me."
Now what does it mean to believe in Jesus?

Most people think it means to "believe that".

- Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins.
- Believe that Jesus was buried.
- Believe that Jesus rose again the 3rd day.

But that is what the devil believes, and I guarantee you, he's not saved. He's not born again.

- B. So, what does it mean to "believe in" Jesus? I think it is connected to what Jesus told Thomas in verse 6:

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

(1) Believe Jesus is the WAY to God

(a) The way to where/Who? The way to God.
Jesus' statement about being the way to God gives us great insight about the gospel.

(b) What is the gospel?
Gospel means "good news."
What is so good about the good news?

The good news is Jesus paid the penalty for our sins.
"He who knew no sin became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus" (2 Cor. 5:21)

In other words, Jesus's death on the cross justified us before God and made us right with God.

(c) So, let me ask:

- Why is it good news to you that your sins have been forgiven?
- Why is it good news that you are right with God?

Can I give how most people answer:
Answer: Because I don't want to go to hell.
I want to go to Heaven.
I no longer have a guilty conscience.

All those things are true, but none of those are the highest good of the gospel.

(d) The problem is, our good news has to do with a WHAT.
What do you get? Heaven, a clear conscience

Jesus did not say to Thomas, I am the way to a WHAT.
JESUS SAID, "I AM THE WAY TO WHO? (GOD).

(e) Nothing wrong with going to Heaven.
Nothing wrong with escaping Hell.
Nothing wrong with being forgiven of our sins.

But they are not the supreme good of the good news.

The supreme good of the gospel is that we will see and savor God!

John Piper:

...all the saving events and all the saving blessings of the gospel are means of getting obstacles out of the way so that we might know and enjoy God most fully. Propitiation, redemption, forgiveness, imputation, sanctification, liberation, healing, heaven—none of these is good news except for one reason: they bring us to God for our everlasting enjoyment of him.

If we believe all these things have happened to us, but do not embrace them for the sake of getting to God, they have not happened to us. Christ did not die to forgive sinners who go on treasuring anything above seeing and savoring God. And people who would be happy in heaven if Christ were not there, will not be there. The gospel is not a way to get people to heaven; it is a way to get people to God. It's a way of overcoming every obstacle to everlasting joy in God. If we don't want God above all things, we have not been converted by the gospel.

(f) 1 Pet. 3:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God,

It's not justification and sanctification that makes the gospel good news. It's God who makes the Gospel good news.

And Jesus is the way to God.

Believe Jesus is the way to God.

(2) Believe Jesus is the TRUTH of God

(a) What does Jesus mean He is the Truth?

Since Jesus is full of truth, guess who He is?
He's God!

Only God is full of truth.

(b) So, what does Jesus want you to believe?

He wants you to believe He's not just a great teacher, great preacher, great miracle worker, great prophet. He's the GREAT GOD OF THE UNIVERSE.

Which is why Jesus told Philip in

Jn. 14:9-11

He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. ¹¹ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.

(c) But Jesus doesn't just want you to believe the fact that He's God. Jesus wants you to stand in awe of Him as God.

In awe of...

- His divinity, yet clothes Himself in Humanity
- His justice, yet shows people mercy
- His majesty, yet shows people His meekness
- His equality with God, yet shows His reverence to God.
- His power to still the storm, yet refuses to come down from the cross.

- He is King and yet, He's your Father – and you can have a very personal relationship with Him.
- (d) Jesus wants you to see His glory and be utterly amazed and speechless about Him. And admire His greatness and His glory. And be blown away by His love and grace.

And because of amazing love and grace, you long to walk with Him and talk with Him; love Him, learn about Him, and live for Him.

And if that's not in your heart, you may have religion, but you don't have Jesus.

Believe Jesus is the truth of God.

(3) Believe Jesus is the LIFE of God

- (a) What does Jesus mean He is the life?
Certainly, He is the source of biological life, but Jesus ultimately, is the source of everlasting life. He is the source of God's life.
- (b) And Jesus wants to put God's life in you.
When you are born, you are born with human life, but not God's life.

But when you get born again, God puts His life in you.
Jesus comes to live His life not beside you, but inside you.

In fact, Jesus will live His life in you and through you.
Which means you won't be living like world. You'll be living like God.
You won't be living like Hell. You'll be living like Heaven.

- (c) Since Jesus is on your inside, you'll walk like Jesus, talk like Jesus, have thoughts like Jesus.

You'll have fruit like Jesus (love, joy, peace...)
You'll have faith like Jesus.
You'll be fearless like Jesus.

- (d) That mean, when Jesus lives His life in you, He doesn't make you WIMP. He makes you a WARRIOR.

That is Jesus' word about believing.

Finally,

3. Jesus has a Word about LIVING

Jn. 14:12-13

¹² Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do; because I go to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do *it*.

- A. What is Jesus' word about living?

Jesus did great things while he walked on this earth, but when you are delivered from your doubts about Jesus and you believe Jesus is the Way to God, the Truth of God, and the Life of God, you will do greater works than Jesus while you are here on this earth.

Not greater in power, but greater in extent, scope. In other words, the extent of Jesus' ministry was Israel. But with the power of Jesus in all of us, the extent is the whole world.

B. In other words, Jesus wants to live his life in and through you; and use you to deliver the good news.

And when you deliver the good news that Jesus is the way to God, the truth of God, and the life of God, He will change their life forever.

And they will see there's no one, and nothing as good and as great as God.

Conclusion:

Charlie Kirk was 1 man on a mission to change the world. And because Jesus changed his life, Jesus used him to speak and preach to thousands.

On the Wednesday of his assassination, he gave the gospel to the 3,000 students who assembled. He fearlessly shared Jesus.

And that's what God wants us to do.

Do you want some fearless faith this morning?

You have to get delivered from your doubts.

You must believe Jesus is the way, truth, and the life.

And you must allow Jesus to live His life in and through you.