

A Prayer for Courage to Daily Answer God's Call to Ministry

By Lisl Heymans Paul

Reach deep within me, God, and summon the courage I need to daily answer your call. I shudder, you see, at the enormity and importance of the work you have laid before me. I need courage to keep saying yes to offering my unique and grain of sand efforts

to the mundane and extraordinary labor of building your kingdom,
to the gentle conversations, the heartbreaking encounters, the joyful surprises, and necessary pain of loving your people,
to the dangerous and rare work of being ethical in an unjust world,
to the monotony of reports and complaints and low numbers,
to the attention that must be paid to my own soul, body, mind, heart in order that I can turn my attention to those of your people,
to the acts of kindness in the face of brutality, justice in the face of corruption, humility in the face of hubris.

For all these things, I need courage, God. Mostly because you know it is easier to slip silently and passively into the darkness of apathy, complicity, and false pride, than to hold hands with the poor and speak truth to the rich.

Cover me fully, God, with the garments of your grace and love. For these, along with your courage, are what daily offer me hope and propel me to say yes.

Amen.