

## **Journey to the Promise: Be Strong and Courageous**

**Dr. John Carmichael**

**[Jos 1:1-9, 18 NASB95] 1 Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant, saying, 2 "Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. 3 "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. 4 "From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory. 5 "No man will [be able to] stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. 6 "Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 "Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. 8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. 9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." ... 18 "Anyone who rebels against your command and does not obey your words in all that you command him, shall be put to death; only be strong and courageous."**

- God's people stood at the threshold of the Promised Land, facing uncertainty and giants. Moses, their faithful leader of 40 years, had died. Joshua now faced the enormous responsibility of leading Israel into their inheritance.
- In this critical moment, God spoke directly to Joshua, giving him the key to success: "Be strong and courageous." The command to be strong and courageous appears three times in our passage by God (vv. 6, 7, 9) and once (v.18) by the people, underscoring its importance.
- Like Joshua, we all face Jordan Rivers in our lives—obstacles that stand between us and God's promises.
- Church, what would happen if we stopped cowering in fear and started claiming our inheritance with holy boldness?

**What is it about courage that God values so highly?**

**We will discover five truths about how God's command to be strong and courageous is vital for entering into the fullness of His purpose for our lives.**

### **I. GOD'S PROMISE PRECEDES OUR COURAGE (Joshua 1:1-5)**

- a. God begins by establishing His promise before calling for courage.
- b. Notice the certainty in God's language: "I have given it to you" and "No man will [be able to] stand before you."
- c. God's promise to Joshua: "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you" (v. 3).
- d. Joshua's courage wasn't blind faith but was anchored in God's covenant promise.
- e. [Heb 6:17-18 NASB95] 17 In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.
- f. Your courage must be built on God's promises, not just positive thinking.

### **II. BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS TO POSSESS WHAT GOD HAS PROMISED (Joshua 1:6)**

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- a. "Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them..." (v. 6).
- b. The promise was given, but courage was required to possess it.
- c. The Promised Land was occupied by enemies that had to be driven out.
- d. [Eph 6:10 NASB95] 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.
- e. Like a weightlifter develops strength through resistance, spiritual strength is built through facing challenges in faith.
- f. What "promised land" in your life requires courage to possess? A ministry? Freedom from bondage? Reconciled relationships?

### **III. BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS TO WALK IN OBEDIENCE (Joshua 1:7-8)**

- a. "Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law..." (v. 7).
- b. Courage isn't just for facing external enemies but for maintaining internal obedience.
- c. Sometimes the greatest act of courage is saying "no" to sin and "yes" to righteousness.
- d. The promise of prosperity and success is tied to meditation on and obedience to God's Word.
- e. [Psa 1:2-3 NASB95] 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He will be like a tree [firmly] planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.
- f. It takes courage to stand for biblical values in a compromising culture. God blesses this kind of courage.

### **IV. BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS BECAUSE OF GOD'S PRESENCE (Joshua 1:9)**

- a. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go" (v. 9).
- b. The ultimate basis for courage is not our ability but God's presence.
- c. [Isa 41:10 NASB95] 10 'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'
- d. Like a child who finds courage to enter a dark room when holding their parent's hand, we can face any situation with God by our side.
- e. You are never alone in your challenges. The Holy Spirit empowers you to face what you could never face in your own strength.

### **V. COVENANT COMMITMENT LEADS TO COLLECTIVE COURAGE (Joshua 1:18)**

- a. "Anyone who rebels against your command and does not obey your words in all that you command him, shall be put to death; only be strong and courageous." (v. 18).
- b. The people responded to Joshua's leadership with a commitment to follow.
- c. Individual courage inspires collective courage.
- d. [Pro 28:1 NASB95] 1 The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, But the righteous are bold as a lion.
- e. Your courage can inspire faith in your family, church, and community. We need strong believers who will lead the way in faith.

- **Joshua's courage led an entire nation to their inheritance. The same God who spoke to Joshua speaks to us: "Be strong and courageous."**
- **In your journey to the promise, God is calling you to be strong and courageous in order to enter the promise land, that is based upon obedience and faith in His Promise as we know that His Presence is with us and so it will strengthen others around us.**
- **Declaration: "I will be strong and courageous. I will not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord my God is with me wherever I go. I chose to release my faith based upon His**

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**promise. I will obey God. I am an example of strength and courage to my family, friends, and church." (Prophetic act: step forward.)**