**Be Strong in The Power of His Might**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Joshua 1:5-9**

**Sunday Morning**

**September 19, 2021**

**Joshua 1:5-9**

5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

**The most important activity in a Believer’s Life is Personal, Private Meditation on God and His Word**

Saints, and sometimes meditation involves thinking deeply about a single verse and seeking to understand what God says He will do and how He desires for us to respond, in light of who He is and what He has promised.

Joshua 1:9 is just such a verse because it tells us to be strong and courageous in our obedience to the Lord.

**Joshua 1:9**

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Saints, when the people of Israel arrived at the border of the land God had promised them, He spoke to Joshua to encourage him and the people.

Forty years earlier, the previous generation of Israelites had stood opposite the land but refused to enter because they were afraid. As a result of their disobedience to God’s command, they forfeited the Promised Land and wandered in the wilderness for 40 years until they all died.

**Numbers 14:1-31**

14:1 So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. 2 And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!

3 Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"

4 So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt." 5 Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel. 6 But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; 7 and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land.

8 If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.' 9 "Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them." 10 And all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Now the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel.

11 Then the LORD said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them? 12 I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they."

13 And Moses said to the LORD: "Then the Egyptians will hear it, for by Your might You brought these people up from among them, 14 and they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that You, LORD, are among these people; that You, LORD, are seen face to face and that Your cloud stands above them; and You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night.

15 Now if You kill these people as one man, then the nations which have heard of Your fame will speak, saying, 16'Because the LORD was not able to bring this people to the land which He swore to give them, therefore He killed them in the wilderness.' 17 "And now, I pray, let the power of my LORD be great, just as You have spoken, saying,

18'The LORD is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.'

19 "Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now." 20 Then the LORD said: "I have pardoned, according to your word; 21 but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD—

22 because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, 23 they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it. 24 But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.

25 Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valley; tomorrow turn and move out into the wilderness by the Way of the Red Sea." 26 Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, 27 "How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who murmur against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel murmur against Me.

28 Say to them, 'As I live,' says the LORD, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: 29 The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. 30 Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in.

Now their sons were given the same command, and they needed strength and courage to conquer Canaan and receive all that God promised them.

**The Lord’s Promises**

God told Joshua,

**Joshua 1:2-3**

“Arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you”

To further encourage him God assured Joshua that no one would be able to stand against him. Then He gave him this promise:

**Joshua 1:5**

No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

**God’s Command**

Based on these promises, the Lord then commanded Joshua,

**Joshua 1:6**

Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

Saints, Joshua’s success was assured if he would faithfully meditate on the law of Moses, letting it dominate his thoughts and his words, and carefully obeying all that was written in it without turning to the right or the left.

Instead of responding with fear and trembling as the previous generation had, Joshua was told to be strong and courageous because the Lord would be with him wherever he went. The method for conquering the land of Canaan was not in battle strategies but in meditation and obedience to God’s Word.

**Definition of Meditation**

Meditation includes reading Scripture, believing what it says, absorbing it into our hearts, and obeying what God says.

The goal is to learn to relate to the Lord personally in our walk with Him by listening and applying whatever He says and making it a part of our lives.

It requires focusing on the Lord, shutting everything else out, and listening to Him more than talking. We can also meditate on sermons we hear by writing down the major points, thinking about what was taught, and applying these truths to our lives.

**Definition of Courage**

Courage is the quality of mind and spirit enabling one to meet danger, opposition, or the challenges of life with fearlessness, calmness, and firmness by trusting and obeying God.

**The Command**

**Joshua 1:9**

“Be Strong and Courageous…”

This command is repeated three times in this short passage to emphasize our great need in challenging times. If we are not grounded in God’s Word, our first response will be fear. The way to combat this is to set our minds and hearts on the character and work of God. His promise to be with us in every situation gives us the courage to face whatever comes our way.

**The Basis**

**Joshua 1:5**

“I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you”

God’s unfailing presence is the foundation for strength and courage. He is the one who ultimately determines every circumstance in our lives.

Our responsibility is to be rooted and grounded in His truth, believe what God says, and trust Him. To stand strong, we need a clear understanding of who He is since this is the basis for our trust in Him.

Knowing that the Lord is the sovereign Ruler over everything, that there is nothing we will ever face that He cannot handle, and that He understands and cares for us gives us a strong basis for trusting and obeying Him.

Although He doesn’t reveal all the details of what He is going to do or how He will work in our lives, when our confidence is in God’s nature and attributes, we can be strong and courageous even if His ways are not what we expected.

**The Caution**

**Joshua 1:9**

“Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go...”

This new generation of Israelites was being warned not to respond as their parents had with doubt, unbelief, and fear, which led to failure. But instead, they needed to see through eyes of courage and faith. In the same way, we are called to walk by faith in God, trusting in His promises so we can live in godliness with joy and confidence.

**The Issue**

Joshua 1:8

“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”

Saints, whatever the circumstances, the solution is to meditate upon God’s Word, day and night and be careful to do what it says. He may not work everything out exactly as we hope or desire, but He will never fail us.

**The Consequences**

**Joshua 1:7**

“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....”

God didn’t give Joshua all the details of how he would conquer the Promised Land. Instead He commanded him to obey His Word and do whatever it said.

This is the same kind of faith and obedience we need to have to live in a manner that is successful in God’s eyes. Meditation on His Word isn’t accomplished by breezing through Scripture but by letting it fill our minds so that we’ll carefully obey it!

**In Closing:**

**1. Do you trust God in challenging times?**

**2. According to today’s passage, what is the evidence of genuine trust in a person’s life?**

**3. How is it displayed in your emotions, your habits, and your willingness to obey whatever God asks of you?**

**4. How ready are you to obey the Lord when you don’t know the details of how the situation will work out?**

**5. How could meditation each morning on God’s command, “Be strong and courageous,” influence your attitude, thinking, and obedience to Him throughout the day?**

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**