

**Be Strong
and
Courageous**

10-2-22

Joshua 1:1 (NIV)

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua, Moses my servant is dead.

Moses who may be the greatest man of the OT has died. Moses is also a type of Christ. Moses brought God's people out of darkness and slavery of Egypt to freedom. Christ brought believers out of the dominion of darkness of this world who were slaves to sin into HIS glorious light. After the death of Moses God's work expanded. Likewise, after the death of Christ God's work expanded. This world doesn't understand that of God's kingdom expands in adversity. The Jewish leaders had this same misconception.

John 11:48-50 (NIV) NO/OH

⁴⁸ If we let Jesus go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation. ⁴⁹ Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all! ⁵⁰ You do not realize that it is better for you that Jesus die for the people than that the whole nation perish."

Therefore, when we face any adversity, God repeatedly tells us "be strong and courageous" because "the adversity is evidence" that God is going to grow HIS kingdom. Note "the adversity is evidence" that God will move. Therefore, in adversity we know that God is going to move and direct us in some way. Thus, we are prepared to make a decision to cross the Jordon before us.

Joshua 1:2-3 (NIV)

² Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. ³ I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.

We must cross our Jordon. We can be strong and courageous because God will give us every place where we set our foot. In one of the sequels to “Raiders of the Lost Ark” Harrison Ford was told to cross this huge canyon. Each time he stepped into space the rock bridge appeared under his foot. This is what God is telling us. Each time we go where God tells us; HE gives us each place we place our foot. This is not blind faith. We only do this after God tells us, so we are only being obedient.

We are safe wherever God is! Note what God said to Moses when he went to see the burning bush.

Exodus 3:5 (NIV)

God said, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.”

Notice how God refers to believers in the NT.

1Cor. 3:16 (NIV)

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

Obedying what God tells us, manifests the evidence of God's presence. Therefore, wherever we stand is Holy ground.

Matt.12:28 (NIV)

But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

When we hear God and obey, HE makes each place we step Holy Ground. Just as God says to Joshua.

Joshua 1:5-6 (NIV)

⁵ No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

In the NT we see our same authority in the world.

Matt.28:18-19 (NIV)

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

OT and NT we are told to be strong and courageous. We are told to hear God and not to waver between opinions.

Joshua 1:7 (NIV)

Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

Important! We are strong, courageous, and unwavering because we stand on the God breathed out WORD OF GOD!

2Tim.3:16 (NIV)

All Scripture is God-breathed!

This is exactly what God told Joshua. We all should take this as a specific word to each one of us.

Joshua 1:8-9 (NIV)

⁸ Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

God is declaring that nothing we ever read will be as important or beneficial as the Holy Bible. Understanding this gives us passion for the Word of God.

Psalm 42:1-2 (NIV)

¹ As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.

² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

Our passion comes from understanding and embracing truth!

2Cor.5:21 (NIV)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.