

AFTER CHURCH DEVO

BY REBUILD

Topic: Be Strong and Courageous

Opening Prayer:

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1)

Heavenly Father, as we come before You today, we ask for Your strength and courage. Help us to trust in Your promises and to follow Your guidance with boldness and faith. Open our hearts and minds to Your Word. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Read: Joshua 1

As Joshua steps into leadership after Moses' death, God's charge to him is powerful and clear: "Be strong and courageous." This command is repeated multiple times within Joshua 1, emphasizing its importance. The historical context of this passage is critical. The Israelites are on the brink of entering the Promised Land, a place flowing with milk and honey, yet filled with formidable challenges, including fortified cities and giant warriors.

God's promise to Joshua is rooted in His faithfulness: "Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you" (Joshua 1:5). The key Hebrew word here is "ḥāzaq" (חָזַק), translated as "be strong," which implies a sense of internal fortitude and resolve. Similarly, the word "āmēṣ" (אָמַץ), translated as "courageous," denotes being steadfastly determined.

God's instructions to Joshua also include a call to obedience: "Be careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go" (Joshua 1:7). This highlights the importance of living in accordance with God's Word as a foundation for courage and success.

In our lives, we often face "promised lands" that seem filled with insurmountable obstacles. Yet, like Joshua, we are called to be strong and courageous, trusting in God's presence and promises. This strength is not of our own making but is derived from God's faithfulness and our adherence to His Word.

Consider the practical application of this principle. When you face daunting tasks or challenges, remember that God's promise to Joshua applies to you as well: "I will not leave you or forsake you." Courage and strength come from knowing that God is with you, just as He was with Joshua. Meditate on His Word, let it guide your actions, and trust that He will lead you to victory.

Conclusion:

God's charge to Joshua to be strong and courageous is a timeless call for all believers. Strength and courage come from God's presence and adherence to His Word. As we face our own challenges, we can find confidence in the same promise: God will never leave us nor forsake us.

Discussion Questions:

For Students:

1. What situations in your life require you to be strong and courageous?
2. How can you rely on God's Word to guide you through difficult times?
3. What does it mean to you that God will never leave you nor forsake you?

For Parents:

1. How can you encourage your children to be strong and courageous in their faith?
2. What examples from your own life can you share with your children about trusting God?
3. How can you incorporate God's promises into your daily family routines?

For Professionals:

1. What challenges at work require you to exhibit strength and courage?
2. How can you integrate biblical principles into your professional life?
3. In what ways can you remind yourself of God's presence in the workplace?

This week, identify one area in your life where you need to be strong and courageous. Write down a specific promise from God's Word related to that challenge, and meditate on it daily, asking God to help you live out His command to Joshua.