

- ***Read Joshua 1:1-9*** The final messages of Moses have been delivered to the people of Israel. Their new leader, Joshua, has taken his place at the helm of the nation. The people are on the doorstep of the promised land. It is time for them to kick down the door and march on in.
- The Lord comes to Joshua and lays the plan of attack down before him. Did you catch the phrase that is said three times in these nine verses that details just how they were to enter into the land? Look at **vv. 6,7,&9** one more time. "Be strong and courageous!" is the battle cry of the Lord for the people that He claimed for His own. These people were to march into this land with strength, courage, and confidence, and take the land that God had promised to their forefathers so many years before.
- Was the strength, courage, and confidence all that was required, however? While it was said three times, we must recognize that there were a few other things that went along with the people be strong and courageous. In much the same way, while we may not be in a physical war, **Ephesians 6:10-12** tells us that we are battling against Satan and his efforts to destroy our souls. Let's go ahead and accept that we are to be strong and courageous in this battle that we are fighting, but what else can we take from **Joshua 1:1-9** that will help us to be successful in this battle? Let's consider 4 additional things that are needed and will take place if we are committed to being strong and courageous.

I. And Be Committed To God's Word

- A. In **v.8**, after stating twice that the people must be strong and courageous in their conquering of the land of promise, God also states that the people must be committed to the Word of God. The law was not to depart from their mouths, and they were to be sure to meditate on the Law day and night.
- B. Basically...the people were not to rush into the land like chickens with their heads cut off. They were to be strong and courageous...but they were to allow God and His laws to dictate what they were to do. In order to do what the law said they had to know what was held within it.
- C. The strength, courage, and confidence of the people was good for them to have...but all of that and their sincerity was not enough for them to be successful in their endeavors. The people had to be committed to know what God would have them do. We discussed **Deuteronomy 6:6-9** this morning so I will not repeat a lot of it, but the people had to have the law written firmly on their hearts so that they would know just what to do in any given situation.
- D. God's Word was to be the lamp to light their way, (**Psalm 119:105**) and we must remember that God's Word must continue to be the light that illuminates our way in what we are to do. Knowing God's Word can truly fill us with confidence and strength that will fuel us as we fight against Satan and his many different attacks against us.

II. And Be Obedient To The Lord

- A. Strength, courage, and a commitment to know God's Word still did not complete the job and responsibilities of the people in the conquest of the land. They had to not just know the Law of God, but they had to be careful to do all things according to the Law. (**v.7,8**) They could not turn to the right or the left. They had to do just as the Lord had commanded them to do.
- B. We know from the stories that begin in Joshua that God did not always give the people commands that made a lot of sense. Again, Jericho...Gibeon...other places were very unorthodox battle strategies. Yet, the obedience of the people was paramount in their success or failure. Sure they could have charged up in there all gung-ho, but where would they have gotten without obedience to God's commands?
- C. There are many different ways in which we must be strong and courageous in our faith, but where will we be if we disregard God's commands to us? Many people are sincere, strong, and courageous to give their hearts to God and accept Jesus as their personal Savior...but does that mean that they have been obedient? Many people consider themselves strong and courageous to be who they believe they really are in their sinful lifestyle....but does the sincerity alone make these things ok?
- D. Let me suggest that our success will depend on more than just sincerity, strength, and courage. Our success will be determined not just by our approach, but it will be determined by how well we are committed to knowing and obeying God's Word and commandments. The Children of Israel were not the strongest of people. We, too, are not always the strongest of people. However, we can overcome and be victorious when we are obedient to God in all that He has commanded of us to do.

III. And God Will Be With Us

- A. Our strength, courage, committed and obedience to God's Word and commandments will lead us to a good place in the eyes of God. Again, consider **vv.7-9**. The people's obedience would mean that God would give them great success. Their obedience and committed to God would mean that their way would be prosperous. Their obedience to God's command to be strong and courageous would mean that God would be with them wherever they went.
- B. This truth cannot be missed when we go back and consider the conquest of the people. We have mentioned this before, but I just don't think it can be overstated. When the people were confident in the Lord and obeyed Him, they had success in their endeavors and battles. But when they went against God's Word, they were not successful. In fact, they fell flat on their faces. God refused to be with a people who were not willing to be obedient to Him.
- C. God being with us is the greatest feeling in the world, and it can certainly be had by His people when we follow the blueprint that He has laid out for us in His Word. Joshua and the people had seen all of the many great things that God and done for them up to this point. They surely could have strength and courage from seeing those things and being obedient to God just could not have been seen as something not worth it.
- D. Do we value God being with us? Do we see the strength and courage that we can have knowing that God is with us. I am so thankful that. I am so thankful that I know that God is with me and those who love Him, His Word, and am obedient to it. We must be strong. We must be courageous. We must be committed. We must be obedient. When these things are true in our lives then God will be with us in all that we do, and we will prosper and be successful in the battles we fight in this life.

IV. And God Will Give Us The Land He Has Promised

- A. The end reward for the strength, courage, commitment, and obedience of the people was that they would indeed inherit the great land that God had promised to their forefathers Abraham, Issac, & Jacob. The promised land would be theirs for the taking. **(v.6)**
- B. Again, we don't look to physical promises...but we look to spiritual promises that have been made by our Lord to us as His people, as His body. In **John 14:1-3**, Jesus is giving a little pep talk to His Apostles by reassuring them that He was going away to the place that had been prepared for them and all of those who are faithful to His name. He strives to assure them that if He was going to go to this place then He certainly would come back and receive them and all the faithful to this place where there is much room.
- C. Jesus was seeking to instill confidence and strength in His Apostles by them knowing that there was a great reward waiting for them. When we are willing to approach the battles of this life with strength, confidence, commitment, and obedience to God then we will have those things that will help us to enter into this land of promised. The land of promised rest that waits for all the people of God. **(Heb. 4:1-11)**

The people were this close to kicking in the door of Canaan and marching in to claim the land that had been promised to them. Yet, the job was not yet done. They had to be strong and courageous. They were not the strongest of people, but they served the strongest God. He was with them when they approached the task with the proper attitudes. May we consider their mindsets and do everything we can to have God be with us so that we might enter into that great land of rest in the last day as His faithful servants who have overcome the world.