

Time for Courage, Time to be Brave; God will provide the way and the victory in your life.

**Joshua 4:1-7 and 6:15-21 Joshua means God saves.**

**God's words to Joshua "Be strong and courageous!" is meant for us today. Like the Israelites, we battle strong enemies and face walls that must come down.**

**Do not give in to fear, but break its hold through the powerful words of Scripture so you **can** live in confidence.**

**How could Joshua be strong and courageous? Because he knew who was in charge of His history. He loved God and obeyed Him.**

**The Lord knows everything you will experience just like the Israelites.**

**Because they listened to God and obeyed his commandments:**

**crossed the Jordan River,**

**defeated Jericho against wicked people (whose hearts melted in fear),**

**defeated Ai (even after one man (Achan's) greed made him disobey God and take the spoils that were God's) 35 men died, The sin was removed and the Lord told Joshua again, "Do not be afraid:. They defeated Ai.**

People of Gibeon deceived the Israelites. Joshua made a peace treaty with the Gibeons because he did not ask God. He kept the deceitful treaty because he promised but a **curse came upon the Gibeons.**

God forgave Joshua and the Israelites soon overcame at the next battle of 5 kings who warred against Gibeon. God **threw the 5 Amorite kings men into confusion** and Joshua defeated them. He prayed that the sun would sit still so it stopped in the sky for another full day.

God will do that against your wicked enemies if you leave the revenge to him.

God knows what lies ahead for you right now and His promise applies to all who walk with Him.

God spared **Rahab the prostitute because she did not let fear overcome her** and helped the 2 spies and lied to the authorities to save them. She was remembered by God and Joshua because of her faith and her entire household was spared. That was her and her families salvation. We might have rejected her but God knew her heart. **She is only one of 2 women mentioned in the Hall of Fame in Hebrews 11.**

**The Command:** “Be strong and courageous!” So many things in our life threaten our hearts and minds. We are threatened by **gossip, friends, relatives, disease, our workplace, our neighborhoods, our government, and sometimes even in our homes and churches.**

Like the Israelites, we face battles, enemies, and trials. And yet God tells us to have courage and strength as we confront what comes.

• **The Promise:** “I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you” The command would be impossible to obey without His promise.

We cannot stand on our own strength but we **must** stand on the power of God. The guarantee of His presence and guidance is ours to claim. **Who is in charge?**

The writer of Psalm 118 trusted in God's command and the promise from Joshua 1. He penned, "The Lord is for me; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" No one can remove God's love from us, take our salvation, or make us forfeit our right to faithfully abide with Him forever.

Our Spiritual growth is as relevant to God today as it was for the Jewish people. We doubt our **own** decisions **but we won't doubt God.**

He promises to abide with us in all circumstances. **Do you believe?**

Faith and courage develop in believers who meditate on God's Word regularly, **talk to God and ask for prayer from other believers. We are a covenant community. WE need people!**

**Fear/discouragement is** (fear of man and death), the opposite of courage,**and** is born out of disobedience, not trusting the Lord, and His will for your life.

The weight of fear drags us down into shackles as a prisoner.

But Scripture gives us the truths, the promises, and the principles to break that bondage. The answer is in the Bible **because God died on that cross to set you free from fear and death!**

Have you ever noticed how reading the Word quiets your spirit? Because Faith (**trusting the Spirit of God**) dissolves fear.

**God's will begin to reveal the truth and the truth will set you free! Your problem, your disease, your testing, your trial is not bigger than God.**

**We cast off the weight of our burdens onto the cross of Jesus and instead grow in confidence in the power and goodness of God. That is the definition of courage.**

We must replace our fear with the reverent fear of the Lord

Hate evil, hate sin, hate wickedness, avoiding evil brings wisdom and knowledge. God will teach you how to avoid evil and fear Him alone. Listen to what your tongue saying? Is it speaking life or death? Are we honest with God, ourselves and others?

**Just as Joshua obeyed God and overcame 31 Kings and their kingdoms in 7 years and the tribes received their inheritance we have an inheritance from God because of Jesus Christ. A great adventure is before us if we are willing to follow Christ.**

**Are we willing to allow him to heal us, to save us, to deliver us from evil? Then we have to stop running from God right now. Ask him to help you die to yourself and your pride. Don't just transfer your sins to another generation but let your past sins become your testimony.**

**Prayer:**

**God you have not called us to fear man and death but to walk in your holiness, in reverent fear of you only. Every person in this church can be saved - whole (healed spiritually, physically and emotionally) with the promise of eternal life in heaven but our hearts cry needs to be "God, I want to be like Jesus and walk holy before You, all the days of my life."**

**God loves you and created you to know him personally. Jesus Christ is the only one who can free us from hell. He forgives us by grace thru faith in Him, not thru our own works.**

**If you are not sure you have ever committed your life to Jesus Christ I encourage you to do so now. If you are not 100% sure you have eternal life I encourage you to pray these words now.**

**Repeat after me. Lord Jesus I want to know you personally. Thank-you for dying on the cross for my sins. I receive you as my Savior and Lord. Thank you for forgiving me and giving me eternal life. I give you control of my life. I place my disease, my burdens, my trials, my temptations and my failings at your cross. Help me not to pick them up again. Make me the kind of person you want me to be, who I was created to be. In Jesus name. Amen**