

JOSHUA

# I Will Be With You

Joshua 1:5-9



Turn to

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Deuteronomy

30:15-20

Understand:

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Ownership of the land  
depended on *God's*  
faithfulness, but  
occupation of the land  
depended on *Israel's*  
faithfulness.



## Last Week:

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“now therefore 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”

# Three “Main Things”

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1. Much of the language here derives from God’s earlier instructions and encouragement.
2. The threefold command to “be strong and courageous”
3. The emphasis on Joshua’s keeping of the Law

# A Message for Joshua

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## 1. Your efforts will succeed

- God to Moses in Deut. 7:24b – “no man will be able to stand before you until you have destroyed them.”

## 2. I will be with you!

- Especially encouraging: “just as I have been with Moses”
- “I will not fail you or forsake you”



# The Lord tells Joshua:

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“No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life.”

- He has said the same before:

“no man will be able to stand before you until you have destroyed them”

(Deut. 7:24)

“No man will be able to stand before you” (Deut. 11:25)

# Deuteronomy 31:8, 23

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- Moses tells Joshua:

**8** The Lord is the one who goes ahead of you; **He will be with you.**

- And then the Lord tells Joshua:

**23** Be strong and courageous, for you shall bring the sons of Israel into the land which I swore to them, and **I will be with you.**



# Another Promise

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“I will not fail you or forsake you.”

And again, he's heard this before in  
Deuteronomy 11:25, 31:6, and 31:8.

Joshua must have faith in the promises  
of the Lord and be obedient to His  
commands, which go hand-in-hand.

# Obedience & Faith

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- **Romans 1:5** – “through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith”
- **Romans 16:26** – “but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith”
- **James 2:14** – “What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?”

# More Repetition

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1. 1:6 – “Be strong and courageous”
2. 1:7 – “be strong and very courageous”
3. 1:9 – “Be strong and courageous!”

- “strong” – **כָּזָק** (chazaq)
  - Used 290 times in the OT
- “courageous” – **אָמַץ** ('amats)
  - Used 41 times in the OT
  - Also means “resolute”



# **“Be strong and courageous”**

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In Deuteronomy 31:6, Moses used this exhortation to exhort the people.

In Joshua 1:18, the people will use it to exhort Joshua.

In Joshua 10:25, Joshua will use it to exhort the people.

And each time, the statement is accompanied by an assurance that God would be with Joshua or the Israelites, or that He would fight for them.

## Question #1:

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In what ways does  
Joshua need to be  
“strong and  
courageous?”



Question #2:

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Does This  
Apply to Us?

## Reason #1 (v. 5)

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“No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life”

There are major military battles ahead against a well-populated and well-fortified land.

But be strong and courageous, because those people cannot and will not defeat you.

# It Takes Strength & Courage

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To put your social standing, your comfort, and maybe even your physical life in danger to declare the glory of God.

- **As Jim Elliot once said:**

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

## Matthew 10:28

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**28** Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.



## Reason #2 (v. 6)

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“for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them”

Joshua was called to be the instrument for the people to inherit the land.

If he is weak or irresolute, then the cause was in deep trouble.

And notice, that this isn't just a promise to Joshua...



**It Takes Strength & Courage** JOSHUA

To Lead.

**This exhortation is for:**

Elders

**Deacons**

Fathers

**Husbands**

Mothers

**Christians**

## Reason #3 (vv. 7-8)

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“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. 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.”

## The Point:

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Joshua's primary duty is not military but spiritual.

Remind you of anything that we have studied recently?



# David Howard:

## JOSHUA

“It is striking that God’s instructions here to Joshua are not about military matters, given that Joshua and the Israelites faced many battles ahead. However, the keys to his success were spiritual, directly related to the degree of his obedience to God. The keys to Joshua’s success were the same as those for a king: being rooted in God’s word rather than depending upon military might.”

# It Takes Strength & Courage JOSHUA

## To be obedient to the Law of God.

- Notice:
  - “do according to all the law”
  - “do not turn from it”
  - “The book of the law shall not depart from your mouth”
  - “meditate on it day and night”
  - “be careful to do according to all that is written in it”



# “Meditate” on the Law?



...the thing that is right.  
...friends: for ye have  
...unto you now seven  
...rams, and "go to my  
...offer up for yourselves

...Gen. 26. 8. "days.  
...Matt. 5. 24.  
...Hath. 10. 4.  
...Gen. 26. 8.

# THE BOOK OF PSALMS

PSALM 2  
Why do the heathen  
people imagine a  
The kings of the earth  
The rulers take  
the LORD.

# Biblical “Meditation”

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1. A focus upon God (Psalm 18:2)
2. A focus upon the works of God (Psalm 92:4)
3. A focus upon God’s law (Psalm 1:2)
4. It was to be done aloud.
  - This is why the Lord’s command says, “The book of the law shall not depart from your mouth”



# John Calvin



“The study of the law must be assiduous; because, when it is omitted even for a short time, many errors slip in, and our memory grows rusty. Besides, when continuous study is neglected, many things become strange and difficult to practice. Therefore, God orders his servant to persist in the daily study of the law and never cease to pursue it as long as he lives.”



# The One Who:

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Meditates on the Word of God  
is both a teacher and teachable.

To teach others the Word, and at  
the same time, to conform one's  
own conduct to those same  
standards is the mark of the one  
who loves the Lord.

He is the embodiment of Ps. 1.

## George Bush (not that one): JOSHUA

“The important lesson which we hence learn is, that in nothing is there more scope for the display of the highest moral heroism than in daring, in all circumstances, to cleave steadfastly to the word of God as the rule of our conduct. It is in this chiefly that the fortitude of the Christian soldier is to evince itself.”

# The Inevitable Result

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“for then you will make your way  
prosperous, and then you will have  
success”

Of course, this verse (and others  
like it) are often twisted by  
prosperity preachers...



# To Understand Prosperity: JOSHUA

1. Go read Job.
  - Look at Job 42:5-6
2. Go read Proverbs.
  - Look at Proverbs 23:4-5
3. Dig a little deeper into Joshua 1:7-8.
  - Let's turn back there.



# God's View of:

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## 1. “prosperous” – **נָצַח** (tsalach)

- Most often used in reference to prospering in one's endeavors because of the gracious hand of God.
- Isaiah 53:10 –  
“But the Lord was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.”

# God's View of:

JOSHUA

## 2. “success” – שָׂכַל (sakal)

- Most often means to be wise; refers to having “success,” always because the individual seeks or obeys the Lord.
- 1 Kings 2:3 –  
“Keep the charge of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn”

Or...Jeremiah 10:21

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**21** For the shepherds have  
become stupid And have  
not sought the Lord;  
Therefore they have not  
prospered, And all their  
flock is scattered.



# “Prosperity” in the OT

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Is not financial in its primary orientation, if at all.

Rather, it refers to succeeding in proper godly endeavors.

Also, it comes only when it is not the focus of one's own efforts and only when one's focus is on God.



**33** But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

# John Piper:



**“The bottom line is that this is a call to faith — faith in the promised strength of God. And for Christians, this is a strength that was purchased for us by the blood of Jesus, though we deserve nothing but destruction. We know that all the blessings that come into the lives of sinners are coming from the purchase of Jesus Christ.”**

# A Summary:

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The context here is very clear about what is to be the key to Joshua's success (1:7–8): he is “to be careful to obey all the law”; he is not to turn from it to the right or the left; he is to have it constantly on his lips and to meditate on it at all times; and he is carefully to do everything written in it.

His focus is to be upon God's word and will; then, as he leads Israel in taking the land of Canaan, success will come to him.



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Does This Kind  
of Obedience  
Characterize Your  
Life?



# Joshua 1:9

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“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for **the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**”

Joshua 1:9 is:

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A “t-shirt verse” in the modern  
Christian world.

It has much in common with how  
many view Romans 8:28, in that the  
meaning of v. 28 is lost without the  
context of vv. 29-30.

**Without 1:5-8...**

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1:9 is an encouraging but  
entirely generic statement.

The truth of v. 9 cannot be  
removed from the character  
of God and the expectation  
of obedience in vv. 5-8!



# Chiastic Structure

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- I will be with you (v. 5)
  - **Be strong and courageous (vv. 6, 7)**
    - That you may have success (v. 7)
      - **This book of the law (v. 8)**
      - Then you will have success (v. 8)
  - **Be strong and courageous (v. 9)**
- The Lord your God is with you (v. 9)

# Crawford Loritts says:

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In the book of Joshua God gives us “a fourfold description of courage” –

1. **Courage rests upon a clear assignment from God (v 1-4).**
2. **Courage rests upon focused determination (v 6, 7, 9).**
3. **Courage is anchored by the word of God (v 7-8).**
4. **Courage rests upon the assurance of God's presence (v 5, 9).**

# The Lord's Faithfulness

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- To Isaac (Gen. 26:3) – “I will be with you”
- To Jacob (Gen. 31:3) – “I will be with you”
- To Moses (Exod. 3:12) – “I will be with you”
- To Joshua (Deut. 31:8) – “I will be with you”
- Jesus to the church in Matthew 28:20 –  
“I am with you always”



**Do You See:**

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**The Parallels to our  
Salvation,  
Sanctification, and  
ultimate  
Glorification?**

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