

JOSHUA No.3 - BE STRONG & COURAGEOUS

Joshua 1:6-9

3 times God said to Joshua to be strong and courageous.
It was a command, not a suggestion. But in these 3 times, God was saying 3 distinctive things.

1. LAY HOLD OF MY PROMISES

Be strong (vs.6)because you will lead these people...(cf.Deut.3:28)

We are called to lead people to something which someone else has promised them.

cf.Hebrews 6:16-19 ...impossible for God to lie.

cf.2 Cor. 1:20 ...promises are 'YES' in Christ.

God has guaranteed a promised possession.

His Promises are true and victory is assured,

[Lk.10:19 authority to defeat the enemy

[Rom.8:37 ...more than conquerors

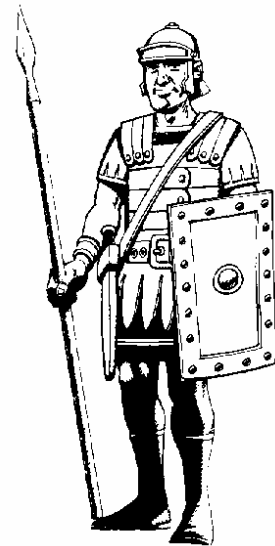
[1 Jn.5:4,5 ...overcome the world

[Col.2:15 triumph of the cross. (cf. 2Cor.2:14)

[1 Jn.4:4 greater is He in you than is in the world.

[1 Cor.16:13 Therefore be strong

[1 Jn. 3:8 The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.



2. LAY HOLD OF GOD'S WORD

Be strong (vs.7) Get hold of the Word! Do not turn from it to the right or the left. ie.maintain the standard. cf. CARMAN 'Raising the Standard'

cf. Psalm 1 Blessed is the man who does not walk....stand....sit...

ie. spiritual erosion NO COMPROMISE !!

cf. LOT Gen.13:10ff; 14:12; 19:1; JOSEPH Gen.39:12

We need God's word every day of our life... Meditate on it and keep speaking it.



3. LAY HOLD OF ME (GOD)

Be strong (vs.9). I will be with you wherever you go.

Ps.34:7 The angel of the Lord.....

2 Ki.6:17 Elisha's servant saw chariots of fire all around Elisha.

2 Tim.4:17 The Lord stood at my side.

To be successful God is saying, "Stay in constant partnership with me." Continue with God even when things change.

Soon manna miracles will stop, harvest miracles will come. But manna miracles bless only the one who partakes and they disappear overnight; harvest miracles bless others as well and they multiply indefinitely by the seed placed within.

We must learn to listen and hear from God. cf. 1 Cor.2 & Jn.15:15



THEREFORE BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS !!

Josh. received the same instructions in 8:1 and 10:8. Then in 10:25 Josh. himself tells the people to be strong and courageous.

" DON'T BE AFRAID "

2Tim.1:7 God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of love, power and a sound mind.

2Tim.2:1 You then my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

1Jn.4:18 There is no fear in love.....

Mt.6:25ff. Do not worry, God will look after you. cf. Rom.8:28 , Is.43:1-2.

One of the greatest fears is the...*FEAR OF MAN.*

Pr.29:25 fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.

Jn.7:13 No-one would say anything for fear of the Jews.

Jn.9:21+22 fear of the Jews.

Jn.12:42 Many believed but were afraid of being thrown out.....

:43 ...loved praise from men.

(cf. Jeremiah 1:17 & Luke 23:23)

FEAR OF FUTURE

Mt.6:25ff. Do not worry about tomorrow.

ANY FEAR

Rom.8:39 Nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



