

The Positive Power of Courage

Joshua 1:1-9

Joshua 1:1-9 (NASB)

¹“Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ servant, saying,

²“Moses My servant is dead; 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.

³ Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses.

⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory.

⁵ No man will *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.

⁶ Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

⁷ Only be strong and very courageous; 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.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.”

What do the following people have in common: Joshua, the Israelite leader; Daniel, the visionary; Jesus’ 12 disciples; and the apostle Paul? Besides loving and following God, they all were in need of courage. Obeying the Lord requires bravery—a firmness of spirit that can face crises without retreating.

Appointed by God, Joshua was called to lead the nation of Israel into the Promised Land. Perhaps he thought, *Who am I to follow in Moses’ footsteps?* or *What if the people will not support my leadership?* God spoke reassuringly to him three times, telling him to be strong and courageous.

Joshua responded with faith and based his bravery on two precious assurances from his Father.

Promise #1—God travels with us. The Lord pledged that He would be with the Israelites in the new land, never leaving or forsaking them. In [Hebrews 13:5](#), He makes the same promise to us. In fact, the Lord travels with us in a far more intimate way—through His Spirit living within us.

[Hebrews 13:5 \(NASB\)](#)

⁵“*Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU.”*”

Promise #2—God goes before us. God promised to take care of the enemy before the Israelites arrived. They still faced battles, but He assured them of victory if they had faith and obeyed Him. Through Jesus, our spiritual battle is already won. Our redemption has been eternally secured, our place in God's family permanently established, and our heavenly inheritance guaranteed. While our earthly trials will continue, we must remember that they're temporary.

If you build your life on these two pledges, then *courageous* will become part of your name. Why not try out how it will sound? Courageous _____.