

Remnant Life Church  
March 10, 2021  
*Joshua: A Man of Courage*  
Pt 3  
Joshua 1:1-9

1. God is the source of courage
  - a. One of the reasons fear can so often take control is because we spend too much time focused on what has come against us, rather than who is with us
  - b. The reality of God's presence will change your perspective
  - c. Left to itself, fear becomes a magnifying glass
  - d. Until your perspective is made right by knowing that the God of the universe has made a promise to never leave you or forsake you, fear will be allowed to rise up
  
2. Courage is not the absence of fear
  - a. It is the proper allocation of fear meaning it is set apart for a specific purpose
  - b. Courage does not replace fear
    - i. It harnesses it and uses it in a right way to accomplish the task rather than back away from or avoid it
  - c. When you live in the right fear of the Lord, His majesty and power
  
3. Courage means stepping back into the reality of God's identity for you
  - a. Fear will turn you into something that you are not
  - b. Fear supercharges your emotions and rarely in a positive way
  - c. It also leaves with you a "residue" that must be removed
    - i. We see this in what God had the Israelites do as they prepare to cross the Jordan
    - ii. After 40 years in the desert, God had them repeat important events as a way to bring them back to the reality of who they were
      1. In chapter 2, spies were sent into Jericho to check things out (**Josh 2:1**)
        - a. Just as they had done 40 years
        - b. Notice at that time they sent out 12 spies
        - c. This time they sent out only 2, which was the same number who brought back the positive report the first time
        - d. It was if God was saying, "there is only one report you will be bringing back"
      2. In chapter 3, God parted the waters of the Jordan through Joshua for the people to cross just as He had done through Moses at the Red Sea 4 decades earlier (**Josh 3:15-16**)
      3. In chapter 5, God instructs all the men born in the wilderness to be circumcised and for the people to celebrate Passover (**Josh 5:2,10**)
        - a. They did this following their departure from the bondage of slavery
        - b. They were doing it again following their departure from the desert of sin and unbelief

- iii. The people who crossed the Jordan were not the same ones who had turned away from it 40 years earlier
  - iv. One other thing that needed to change for the Israelites
    1. For 40 years, the people had been sustained on the manna God sent 6 days a week
    2. As soon as they completed the Passover, where they had eaten produce grown on the land, unleavened bread, and roasted grain, the manna immediately stopped (**Josh 5:12**)
      - a. Manna was the food of the wanderers who had allowed fear to overwhelm their faith
      - b. The produce of the ground was the food of those who had faith and trusted God to meet their needs
    3. The things that God sends and uses to sustain you in your times of fear, you most often will not see again when the task has been completed
4. But what is required of me to see the power and presence of God bring about courage?
- a. It is actually quite simple
  - b. **Josh 1:7-8** – *Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*
  - c. When we read the word “law,” we think of rules, regulations, and a long list of do’s and don’ts
    - i. But in the original Hebrew, the word for law is **tore-RAH**
    - ii. The meaning of the word is direction or guidance
    - iii. The law of God (His Word) is the guide and blueprint for our life
    - iv. It is in knowing Him that His presence is with us always
  - d. To experience the power of God’s presence begins with a heart that is submitted to Him in obedience
    - i. God had given Moses and the people the law very soon after they left Egypt
    - ii. They had 40 years to learn it, understand it, embrace it, and live it.
    - iii. But it was going to have to become a part of them then, just as it must be of us today

Joshua was a man who was called by God to fulfill a seemingly impossible task

- It was not to finally take the Israelites into Canaan
- It was not to get in excess of over 2.5 million people through a raging river at flood stage
- It was not to conquer one of the most heavily fortified and impenetrable cities known to that time
- It was to replace a living legend who was held in awe and wonder by all the people – Moses

Joshua could have allowed his fear of the situation and the fear of failure to paralyze him so that he could not complete the task God set before him

- But God knew what Joshua needed to hear
- And He told it to him 3 times
- Be strong and courageous

Courage is given by God; He is the source

Courage is not the absence of fear but the proper allocation or directing it to another purpose

Courage means stepping back into the reality of who you are in God because of His presence

It is given to us by obeying His Word – living it in our lives daily