

Becoming a Courageous Man of God

Joshua 1:1-9

We look at Joshua today because we see an attribute in him that all Men of God must have, a trusting dependency upon God. In the Bible, Joshua was a military leader and later the successor to Moses, known for leading the Israelites into the Promised Land of Canaan. He played a key role in the conquest and division of the land, establishing Israel's place after their 40-year wilderness journey. Joshua, was born in Egypt, and was a slave like his fellow Israelites. Along with Caleb, Joshua was one of the twelve spies sent by Moses to scout Canaan. He and Caleb were the only ones who believed the Israelites could conquer the land with God's help, while the others spread fear. (Numbers 14:6-10) After Moses's death, Joshua became the leader of Israel, guiding them into Canaan and leading the conquest of the land. Joshua led the Israelites in the famous battle of Jericho, where the city's walls miraculously fell. After the conquest, Joshua oversaw the distribution of the land among the twelve tribes of Israel. Joshua's leadership, faith, and obedience to God portray a Man of God.

A Courageous man of God we must...

I. Totally Dependent Upon the Presence of God (Joshua 1:1-5) God may allow a crisis in our life that requires us to totally depend upon Him. Joshua had to depend upon God in order to fulfill the mission. Dads, your mission is to glorify God with your life and with your family. It may seem like an overwhelming task, you are correct! It is made to be so that you will become courageous in Christ!

How can I totally depend upon God? The first step is to place faith in Jesus Christ. There must be a time in your life when you have placed faith in Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9-10 *“because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”* If you have depended on Christ for eternity, He is more than able for us to place our everyday life upon for sustainment as well. Joshua was dependent upon the promises, plan, and presences of God.

- a. What is the plan of God? What is it for Joshua? (v. 2)

What is the plan of God for us? The Great Commandment and the Great Commission. Men, that begins with your families.

- b. What is the promise of God? What is it for Joshua? (v.3)

What is the promise of God for us? An eternal home with Christ. John 14:1-6

- c. Will there be the presence of God? Will His presence be with Joshua? (v.5)

Will the presence of God be with us? In Matthew 28:19-20, is the Great Commission, in which God gives believers the promise of His presence to accomplish the plan He has given us to carry out. (Psalm 23) *“Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...”*

II. Truly Devoted to the Plan of God (Joshua 1:6-8) Joshua was given the task, as overwhelming as it seemed, God told Joshua to be devoted to leading His people. He was to specifically lead them according to God's Word. What great instructions for us today! We are given the plan to go and make disciples, and to love God and love people.

- a. Men are called to lead spiritually. (Joshua 1:6) Father's you are called to be the spiritual leader of your home! If you are excited about church, your children and wife will be excited about church! You should be leading by example, thrilled to be at church on Wednesday night and Sunday mornings. You should be fueled by a thirst for Christ, praying for your family, encouraging them in the faith. This takes great courage, especially in a day when Satan wants to take your family away and destroy them.
- b. Men are to be committed to God's Word. (Joshua 1:7-8) John 8:31-32, 2 Timothy 3:16-17

III. Trustfully Determined to Live in the Promises of God (Joshua 1:9) What is the promise here? That the people of God will be able to go into the place God has prepared for them and that His presence will be with them. Men, we are to be strong and courageous because God is with you "wherever you go." Listen to these verses that convey the promises of God.

Isaiah 41:10

Romans 3:23-24

Men, will you be Totally Dependent Upon the Presence of God, Truly Devoted to the Plan of God, and Trustfully Determined to Live for the Promises of God? If you struggle to answer that strive to plead with God until you can say yes to God's call! Today is a day of courageous new beginning, leading our families and friends in Christ.