

Introduction:

- **1st Lieutenant Richard Winters (Band of Brothers) after the first day of D-day:** "That night, I took time to thank God for seeing me through that day of days. And prayed I would make it through D-Day plus one. And if somehow, I managed to get home again, I promised God and myself...that I would find a quiet piece of land someplace...and spend the rest of my life in peace." On his first day his commanding officer was killed and he was placed in command of 13 men and given an order to attack and destroy a German artillery position. Joshua is kinda like that man in Joshua 1. Moses is dead. Joshua is now in command. He first objective – Cross the Jordan.
- What do we know about Joshua?
 - He was close to Moses (It matters who you are close to in life) It will affect you for good or evil
 - He was Moses assistant (Exodus 24:13),
 - He was Moses 'go to guy' in things of war. (Exodus 17:13) He was not afraid of battle. Trusted by others.
 - ***He also stayed in the Presence when Moses went back down the mountain to the people. (Exodus 33:11)
 - He was one of the spies sent into the promised land. Numbers 13.
 - He was a man of faith. Numbers 13
 - Joshua was anointed by Moses. Number 27:18-22
 - He was prepared by Moses to take the Land. Deuteronomy chapters 1-34
 - No matter how well you are prepared, 'the day', 'that day', 'the day of days', requires strength and courage.
 - Joshua 1:1-9 Be Strong and Courageous! The book of God is filled with promises. Promises that require strength and courage to inherit them. We begin our last week of fasting this Monday night.

I. The Implications of Strength and Courage

- A. Strong means just what it says other than it is used most often in reference to battle. Courageous is similar but it means to become strong, harden. Ie. Your muscles become hard when exercised. Your will is to be hardened...that is resolve, commitment, it is to settle for only one outcome....Winning.
- B. Our strength and courage causes others to inherit their promises.
 1. *""Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them."* (Joshua 1:6, NLT)
 2. Notice the reference to covenant "*the land I swore to your ancestors, I would give them.*" 'Swore' means that God made an oath...He swore by himself since there was no one greater.
- C. Being strong and courageous does not mean being reckless. Do not be

presumptuous.

1. *"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do."* (Joshua 1:7, NLT) Again, for those of you following Wednesday night, this is another covenant statement. "I have bound myself to you to and you have bound yourself to me...your job is to follow closely to me. Walk as my friend."
 2. Be careful to obey.
 3. Do not deviate from God's instruction. It is the way of success. Our strength and courage demonstrates a life lived for God. It provides a model for others to follow. We are still following Joshua's model today.
 4. The fruit of obedience is success and prosperity.
 - a) Prosperity - (*Hebrew - salah*): thrive, increase, accomplish with satisfaction
 - b) Success - (*Hebrew - saka*): to be wise and understanding.
- D. Strength and courage give you a stable walk in the Spirit. A surety of step. vs. 9
1. Do not be afraid. Matthew 24:6 Ends times passage, "*Don't be afraid/alarmed.*"
 2. Do not be dismayed. Dismayed means to be scattered.
 3. People desire to follow a strong and courageous leader. vs. 18
 4. The people say to Joshua, "You be strong and courageous!" That is a worthy prayer target to pray over leaders, whether they are pastors or politicians.
 5. People willingly follow confident good hearted leaders.

II. The Need To Be Strong and Courageous

- A. He who carries the weight of responsibility needs to hear, repeatedly, "Be strong and courageous!" God knew what He was putting upon Joshua. God knew that Joshua knew how quickly people can turn on you after watching Moses. Leading requires strength and courage.
- B. Fear is an enemy of strength and courage. I believe it is why God says four times to Joshua, "*Be strong and courageous,*" vs 9. Ie. The Roman soldiers greeting: "Strength and Honor"
 1. Note to self: Fear is probably the sharpest and most used weapon in the devil's arsenal.
 2. The command from God to Joshua is do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Dismayed means to be scattered. When you are dismayed you fall apart and make bad decisions. It causes panic to set in on others. Ie. It is what the report of the 10 spies did in Numbers 13.
 - a) Hebrew – *aras* – "to fear, to cause to terror, to quiver." TWOT.
 - b) Hebrew – *hatat* – "to panic, to shatter, to be broken with terror." TWOT.
 - c) This is the picture of fear entering a person and they fall apart, they panic, they

lose all sense of God's presence. We all know people like that. But you and I are going to refuse to be that person.

3. Fear is an enemy of strength and courage.

III. Building a Strong and Courageous Life

- A. God tells Joshua how to be strong and courageous.
 1. *"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 good success."* (Joshua 1:8, ESV)
- B. You must know the Word!
 1. Meditate on it day and night.
 2. Do not let it depart from your mouth. That means it has to be memorized.
 3. Be careful to do it. You can study it. You can memorize it. But if you do not do it, practice it, work it, it will not work for you. The studied Word must be applied.
 4. **The Word works for those who work the Word.** Ie. Mark 4 parable of the sower.
 - a) The Word must be tended by us if we want it to produce for us. Planted, weeds pulled, water added. Planted is your study and application. Weeds pulled is contending with all that opposes the Word. Water is done by praying the Word, Seeking Holy Spirit help in nurturing the Word.
 - b) *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."* (James 1:22, ESV)
- C. The Word reveals:
 1. Who He is and how He works.
 2. Who I am and how we work together.
 3. If I know Who He is and who I am in Him, I am now empowered to do what He commands.
- D. Characteristics of the Word.
 1. The Word is living and active. Hebrews 4:12
 2. The Word is Spirit and Life. John 6:63
 3. Therefore, **What has God said that I too can say?** This is agreement. It is confession of my faith. I believe what He has said therefore I speak what He has spoken.
- E. Faith makes all the difference!
 1. **It is so easy to trust in or listen to our five senses. But God is calling us to grow into the faith of Abraham. Romans 4:19**
 2. **Faith comes by hearing the Word.** *"Faith, then, is birthed in a heart that responds to God's anointed utterance of the Anointed One."* (Romans 10:17 TPT)
 3. Joshua and Caleb were of a different spirit because of their faith.

4. Because Joshua stayed in the Word (night and day) he was successful! The Word brings us the supernatural edge that we need in order to overcome.

Conclusion:

- "*Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.*" (1 Corinthians 16:13, ESV)
- "*Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.*" (Proverbs 18:20-21, ESV) I also like how the Message Bible reads: "*Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you choose.*" (Proverbs 18:21, The Message)

"Beloved friend, I pray that you are prospering in every way and that you continually enjoy good health, just as your soul is prospering." (3 John 2, TPT) Soul prosperity is badly needed in the church today.