



BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

JOSHUA 1

FASTING & PRAYER
09/5/2022 -
09/26/2022

21 days of growing together in strength and courage!

Morning: September 11, 2022

Thought of the Day:

Grace is the power/ability of God in me to do those things I can't do in and of myself.

Scripture

1 Peter 5:5b-6 Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble". Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.

Commentary

When you consider the extraordinary ways God worked through men such as Moses and Paul, you may think, I can't measure up to people like them. I don't have what they had.

But you must realize these heroes of the faith were just common, ordinary people. It was their obedience, their complete yielding in humility to God, that gave them uncommon strength and faith. They humbly submitted their lives to God, which freed God to work through them.

I don't know about you, but their examples inspire me to re-evaluate my own obedience. Am I reluctant to listen to God because I think he is asking the impossible? Am I failing to make myself available to Him because I am doubtful or afraid? Your part is to simply obey, humble yourself and God will do His part to empower you with His grace.

Declaration

Lord, I see now that You can do anything through me if I will simply yield myself to you. I'll make myself more available to You today!

Evening: September 11, 2022

"No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God."
(Romans 4:20, ESV)

Abraham is an example of true faith; he accepts God's promise without distrust or wavering. To waver means to bounce back and forth between two opinions and not land on either one. We call that doubt. It also means to hesitate. James 1:7-8 says that man who wavers is doubleminded, unstable, tossed about, and will not receive anything from the Lord. Jesus asks his disciples in Mt 14, "Why did you doubt?" Later in Mk 11:22-24 He states: "*Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.*" (Mark 11:23, ESV)

God desires us to hold fast to the promises and grow strong in faith. "He grew" describes a process Abraham was involved in. Abraham gave himself to God and God's Word. The result was he grew in faith. It is the only way we can grow in faith. We have to hear God's Word and give ourselves to understanding it.

I believe the Word of the Lord is to hold fast to the Word of God. Like Joshua, consider it (think on it) day and night. Don't waver at the promise! Give God glory! And you, too, will prosper and be successful! Your giants are going to fall! Your mountain is going to move! You, my friends, are destined to overcome!

Morning: September 12, 2022

Thought of the Day:

"God does nothing but in answer to prayer." John Wesley

Scripture:

"Then He (Jesus) spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart." Luke 18:1

Commentary

If Wesley is right then every righteous act, every salvation, every revival is the result of prayer. Our Lord and Master tells us to pray and not lose heart. We're to pray for one another as well. You will see, as you read Luke 18:1-8 that Jesus promises that God will answer speedily. Then He challenges us: when I come again will I find faith on the earth? We answer with a resounding YES, LORD! We will pray for one another and trust God to answer in all aspects of our lives. This includes our families, our cities, and our nation. God has given us authority and dominion over this earth and we will implement His will through prayer. We will see righteousness overtake evil. We will see Revival and Awakening in our land.

Declaration

We will pray in faith. Holy Spirit is moving on the hearts of the people of America to convict of sin, grant repentance and bring them to salvation.

Evening: September 12, 2022

"But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." (Luke 22:32, ESV)

Such hope and encouragement filled my heart the first time I read this! **Jesus had already prayed!** Notice what Jesus prayed for Peter; he prayed that his faith would not fail. I believe that Jesus is still praying this way for us today.

Have you ever been in that place where you have "messed up?" You know that you have sinned. You failed Jesus. And you feel like you are counted out. I am sure Peter felt that way when he heard the rooster crow and remembered Jesus' words, "You will deny me three times before the rooster crows." But Jesus had already prayed that Peter's faith would not fail!

Peter was key to the team. Jesus knew that Peter was going to fail in following Him. And the typical response to failing Jesus is to quit, give up, or withdraw. Note: Jesus did not pray for Peter's self-esteem. Jesus did not pray for Peter's shame. **He prayed for Peter's faith! He prayed that Peter's faith would not fail.** Jesus has prayed and is praying that our faith will not fail.

In the life of a believer, faith is so important. Jesus made it a priority of his prayer for Peter. In your worst failure, when you feel that you are letting Jesus down, know that He has prayed that your faith will not fail. Therefore, turn to Him again and strengthen your brothers!

Morning: September 13, 2022

Thought of the Day:

It is possible...

Scripture:

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you. Deuteronomy 31:6

Commentary

We have received word from Father God how we are to be and that's "strong and courageous"! It's possible to be strong and courageous and not afraid as it is written. Joshua was encouraged by God and we're God's representatives on the earth. We are also to encourage one another to be strong and courageous, to think of the possibilities we have in God, for the soul is the soil of all possibilities. As we share our strengths and courage with one another we build ourselves in our most holy faith and bring the possible into manifestation on the earth. Fear says, "what if", but faith says, "so what". Surely God is greater and His grace sufficient for every possible situation or challenge we might face in life. Let's grab hold of that dream God has placed in our hearts and run counting on Holy Spirit and on one another by our side.

Declaration

(Say it to another person) I am strong and courageous and so are you!

Evening: September 13, 2022

"But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it." (Numbers 14:24, ESV)

It pays to follow God! *"And without faith, it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."* (Hebrews 11:6, ESV) Believing that God exists and rewards those who seek Him is true of both Joshua and Caleb. **What made them of a different spirit is they had faith.** In the face of giants, fortified cities, and obstacles, Joshua and Caleb were convinced that God would do what He said they would do. Faith in God and following Jesus makes you of a different spirit! It makes you strong in the Lord and the power of His might. In faith, all things become possible for those who believe. In faith, you can move mountains! In fact, 1 John 5:4 says you can overcome the world through faith!

It pays to follow God. Notice God's two-fold response to the one with a different spirit following after Him. "I will bring Him into the land I have promised. And his descendants shall possess it." In light of this scripture, we should be strong and courageous. We should be a people of a different spirit. Use this fasting time for the purpose of becoming that person of faith who follows Jesus wholeheartedly!

Morning: September 14, 2022

Thought of the Day:

God has equipped us for this journey of life

Scripture:

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity or cowardice or fear, but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of sound judgment and personal discipline [abilities that result in a calm, well-balanced mind and self-control]. 2 Timothy 1:7 (Ampified translation)

Commentary

So many of us are faced with situations in life that threaten, challenge, or shake our status quo of comfort, routine, ease and familiarity. Yet, God has already equipped us with tools to prepare, plan and expect these situations and have victory in each one of them. So equipped we can not only experience the victory but also cheer one another into similar victories and experiences of the goodness of God. We must think of love as a power to wield and overcome the spirit of this world and all it throws at us. We are to develop discernment (sound mind) through relationship with Holy Spirit in prayer and meditation of His Word. Finally, we're to exercise self-control witnessing to one another of the power of God to change our lives into the image of the Master Himself, our beautiful Jesus.

Declaration

I decree, God has given me a spirit to be fearless, loving and discerning, therefore, I am.

Evening: September 14, 2022

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17, ESV)

Some have said that faith comes through trials. It is not true! Faith comes from hearing God's Word. Faith is tested in trials and tested faith produces endurance. But arriving in a place of faith requires that we know who God is and what He has said. F.F. Bosworth, a healing evangelist, said: “Faith begins where the will of God is known.” And, “It's God's Word that lets us know what to trust Him for.” He went on to say, “Power of God can be claimed only where the will of God is known.”

Faith comes by hearing and hearing through the Word. Why did Paul repeat the word hearing? I believe he is telling us that we have to expose ourselves to the Word and literally hear it. When we hear the anointed written Word in our spirit, it produces faith. The Passion Bible says it best, *“Faith, then, is birthed in a heart that responds to God's anointed utterance of the Anointed One.”* (Romans 10:17)

Remember what God said to Joshua in Joshua 1:8? God was telling Joshua what Paul was telling the Romans. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Therefore, position yourself constantly to be hearing the Word. God's Word is Spirit and it is Life! (John 6:63). Being strong and courageous requires us to grow in faith all the time. Faith lets us access the things that God has promised!

Morning: September 15, 2022

Thought of the Day:

Wait patiently, His touch is worth it

Scripture:

Wait on the Lord; be of good courage and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord. Psalms 27:14

Commentary

So many circumstances in our lives demand our time and attention. Someone described it as the “tyranny of the urgent”. Yet, this passage reminds us of that which is necessary, essential, and critical, to wait on the Lord. Oh, that we might value and thirst for His presence, His touch, and His attention such that waiting would be more precious than gold. We can encourage one another in the pursuit of these times of waiting, of intimacy and of oneness. That His love might enthrall us in the silence of seclusion or the secret of private conversations. Would our hearts not overflow then in love for one another? Would not strength, hope, and encouragement fill our hearts? Our vision of His Kingdom will become clear in our spirit. Peace will overflow our souls even amid the storm. Creative ideas and answers will surge in absolute confidence of His faithfulness in all circumstances for our hearts were anchored in His presence.

Declaration

In the secret place I'll wait till He's satisfied

Evening: September 15, 2022

"But charge Joshua, and encourage and strengthen him, for he shall go over at the head of this people, and he shall put them in possession of the land that you shall see." (Deuteronomy 3:28, ESV)

Never underestimate the power of encouragement! In our passage, God is instructing Moses to encourage and strengthen Joshua. God is seeing what Joshua cannot see and He knows that Joshua will need extra courage and strength to lead when these things are visible.

The word encourage means to make strong or to cause to make courageous. It is often used in the context of battle with the understanding of prevail! The word strengthen means to make firm, strengthen, and harden. God is telling Moses, you have the power of your words and position to cause Joshua to become strong in his resolve and prevail in the midst of adversity or overwhelming odds.

I want you to think for a moment about who you might encourage and strengthen today. How do these people need encouragement? Never underestimate the power of your words and position in their life to cause others to become strong and overcome. The Greek word for encourage is best illustrated by a gardener who places a stake beside a young plant or tree. The plant is tied to the stake. When the wind blows, the plant draws strength from the stake. Who in your life can draw strength from you by being connected to you? Use your words today and cause someone to draw strength from you

Morning: September 16, 2022

Thought of the Day:

Are You Fireproof?

Scripture: Daniel 3:17-18

If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or

worship the image of gold you have set up."

Commentary

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego dwelt in a place with God that allowed them to declare, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter" (Daniel 3:16). They faced many challenges in exile, yet their hearts, minds, will and strength were fixed on the Most High God. Their faith didn't waiver.

In the challenges life brings, what is your gaze upon? Is it on the One Who Burns with a Holy Fire and can bring you to a new level in Him? We're to exhort one another to a fiery faith and stand together amid the challenges.

We live in a better covenant than Daniel. What are you struggling with? What can you lay down? Or perhaps, what do you need to stand for? Ask Holy Spirit to highlight an area you may surrender to Him. You'll experience His salvation and He'll rescue you from the hand of your enemy. Write down what He shares. Surrender. Then share with one another the mighty acts of God.

Declaration/Prayer

Father, we confess we have not kept our eyes on you. We humble ourselves before you and receive your forgiveness. We believe, show us your glory amid our trials. Give us eyes to see that when things heat up you're there with us. To you be all honor and glory. Amen

Evening: September 16, 2022

"Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" (Psalm 27:14, ESV)

The Hebrew word for 'wait' means to hope. It is looking with eager expectation. Sometimes we think of waiting as delayed activity or wasted time. In reality, to wait, implies being like a young child at Christmas waiting to open presents. There is lots of activity, but the 'expectations' are set on opening the gifts. Ps 27:14 tells us that we can find strength and courage in putting our hope in the Lord!

"Waiting with steadfast endurance is a great expression of faith. It means enduring patiently in confident hope that God will decisively act for the salvation of his people." (*Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*) I would encourage you to read all of Psalm 27! It is so good! Read it several times before bed and throughout the week.

As you read Psalm 27, write down what stands out to you in the chapter. The things you highlight are meant for you to know. They are a treasure from God to you. God desires to take you deeper into those things that are standing out. We must learn not to 'rush over' something that stands out but to meditate on what God is 'shining the light on.' **It makes a huge difference when you understand that God is talking to you and He is encouraging and strengthening you!**

Morning: September 17, 2022

Thought of the Day:

"If you want to go quickly... go alone. If you want to go far... go together."

Scripture: Rom. 12:9-11 New Amplified

Love is to be sincere and active [the real thing-without guile and hypocrisy]. Hate what is evil [detest all ungodliness, do not tolerate wickedness]; hold on tightly to what is good. Be devoted to one another with

[authentic] brotherly affection [as members of one family], give preference to one another in honor; never lagging behind in diligence; aglow in the Spirit, enthusiastically serving the Lord;

Commentary

Greek translation of honor: Your honor and your reputation would outlive your earthly existence.

Hebrew word for honor: Kavod, which means Glory of The Lord

One of the richest word pictures for diligence is found in the Hebrew word charuwts. It signifies a trench that is dug or gold that is mined.

The California Gold Rush of 1849 provides a powerful illustration of diligence. Men living on the East Coast of California dropped everything and rushed out to the West Coast to dig for gold.

Brothers and sisters, what a beautiful display of God's Glory here on earth when we come alongside one another, giving preference and honor. What a powerful force to corporately pursue Jesus during this time of prayer and fasting. Continue digging the trenches with prayer and fasting. As more come alongside you'll be able to look back and see how God moved on your behalf because you never gave up and you pursued Him with everything you had!

Then [with a deep longing] you will seek Me and require Me [as a vital necessity] and [you will] find Me when you search for Me with all your heart...Deut. 4:29 New Amp.

Declaration

With honor and diligence we will pursue You, standing with one another!

Evening: September 17, 2022

"... and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish." (Esther 4:16, ESV)

Fasting is to be a part of the believer's spiritual arsenal. It is one of the leanest (no pun intended) weapons of our warfare in times of crisis. In the Old Testament, we often find the response of people in crisis or significant spiritual burden to be fasting. Esther is one of those examples. The whole nation of Jews was about to be annihilated. Esther's response was to call for a three-day fast, no eating or drinking. Afterward, she would go to the king to make him aware of Haman's evil plan. The issue at hand for her was that you could not just go into the king's chamber. Doing so could mean death. Taking a stand for what is right can be scary.

Fasting is an act of intentionally humbling one's self before God to encounter Him, to get into His presence. Our fast is about experiencing Him in a place of weakness so that we might be made strong through His presence. When God backs you up, it is a good day! I trust you are encountering God on your fast. Amp up your worship today! When your praise goes up His presence comes down!

Morning: September 18, 2022

Thought of the Day:

Today, let us reflect on how we can love one another the way Christ has loved us.

Scripture: John 13:34-35 KJV

A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Commentary

As Jesus loves us, we are to love one another. What sticks out to me is “as” He loved us. Day unto day as we awaken, we perceive the love of Jesus directing us and giving us daily provision. He loves us, not only with a love that comforts us but that empowers us as well to fulfill our destiny in Him. Let’s consider today how to love one another in that manner. A love seasoned with grace (power) and counsel for the road ahead. This is the type of love that sticks out, it’s noticeable to those seeking the way. It takes a little more to love in this manner. While the world has its view of love, the love of Christ is honorable, selfless, and unconditional. Let us therefore thank Him by seizing the opportunities He gives us to love one another “as” He loved us.

Declaration

We will look for every occasion to love one another as you have loved us. By this the world will know we are your disciples.

Evening: September 18, 2022

You are about to finish the last day of your second week of fasting! Hang in there. You can do this. Or, as my grandson says, "You got This Pawpaw!"

*"And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast." (Matthew 9:15, ESV) Jesus seems to be saying, "When I am gone, my disciples will fast because that will then be the place of greatest encounter with me." **Fasting is an act of humility. It is a statement that you are more hungry for Jesus than your next meal.** Fasting, in Mt. 9:15, is an intimacy-with-Jesus passage. It is one way of showing Him how much you love Him with your actions. I don't do it to earn His love. I do it because I love Him. I would rather spend time with Him in His presence than sit down for a meal.*

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "When you fast..." He was implying that this was a common practice. But He also added, *"And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."* (Matthew 6:18, ESV) Now that is a good Father! He rewards those who diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6.) Both Mt 9:15 and Mt 6:18 have 'relationship' with God at the epicenter of fasting.

We are doing this fast because we want more of Him!