

JOSHUA

"A Study in Strength"

Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. (Joshua 1:6-7)

Strength and Courage:

As men we are taught at an early age to be brave and strong

To not cry when we feel pain...to cry was a sign of weakness.

We were taught to be strong both physically and mentally...

We were taught to be courageous...to not be scared.

Q.

What do you think strength is?

What do you think courage is?

The Webster's dictionary of strength is: **"having or marked by great physical power."** And **"having moral or intellectual power."**

The definition of courage is: **"the mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty."**

Is our definition of strength and courage the same as what God is telling Joshua?

One of the Hebrew meanings for strength is: "resolute," or to "prevail upon."

One of the Hebrew meanings for courage is: to be "determined."

We must look at the context I which God tells him to be strong and courageous...Joshua is a great warrior...he has fought the enemy in battle...

He is already brave and strong according to our definition of strength and courage.

So why did God instruct him to be brave and strong?

Notice how God instructs him to be brave and strong...he would find his strength and his courage in the Word of God...**he will find his strength and courage in God!**

God instructs him to stay true to the Word...don't stray to the right or the left.

So, how do we act in God's strength and courage?

Based on J.I. Packer's "*Keep in Step with the Spirit*"

Every day...for every task at hand, do the following:

Acknowledge that you can do nothing without Jesus, that we need His help

Pray for God's help for whatever task, or responsibility, that is at hand

Trust in God's promises for you

Act in faith that God is with you as you complete your task no matter how unpleasant it may be.

Thank God for His help, His guidance, and His promises

If you apply these steps to everything you do you will be acting in God's strength and courage...not yours.

Here are 12 promises to that will help us get started...you can add your own verses that have helped you through the most difficult of times.to this list.

But please remember that we pray these promises in good times and in bad...in the easy everyday tasks...and the difficult challenges of life:

1. "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10)

2. "My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

3. "God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8)

4. "I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So, we can confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?'" (Hebrews 13:5-6)

5. "The Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly." (Psalms 84:11)

6. "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:32)

7. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." (Psalms 23:6)

8. "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)

9. "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

10. "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me." (Psalms 50:15)

11. The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. (Psalm 28:7)

