

## Putting Feet to Your Faith

### Joshua 1:1-18

- The first five books of the Bible are called the Pentateuch all written by Moses, the book of Joshua is the first of the twelve historical books, and the title of the book is named after its central figure the chosen successor of Moses > “**Joshua**”- whose name in the Hebrew was **Hoshea** meaning salvation, but Moses changed it to **Yehoshua** -Yahweh is Salvation. The book of Joshua is a bridge between the books of Moses as they traveled out of the land of Egypt, and the history of Israel as they entered into the Promised land of Canaan. he was charged with the task of leading Israel into the Promised Land, and drive out the Canaanites, all the while claiming the territory that God had

#### V1-18

- Remember the Greek name “**Jesus**” is translated in the Hebrew to the name “**Joshua**”, and that’s not where the similarities stop, in fact whatever Israel received in the Promised Land they received through the hand of Joshua, and whatever we the Church receive from God we receive through Jesus Christ our Joshua. The ministry of Joshua spans almost twenty five years, and as we’ll see as long as he was alive Israel for the most part tried to do what’s right
- **V1** at this point Moses has died, and now the lord is speaking to Joshua, for the time has come for Joshua who spent forty years listening and following Moses to now lead the children of Israel. Just for our reference Joshua is not a young man being close to ninety, so he was alive when Moses first killed the Egyptian and fled into the desert, he was there when Israel cried out to God because of the hardship they endured from Pharaoh and Egypt.
- He was there when Moses returned **40** yrs later claiming to be the spokesperson for God and lead them out of Egypt, and he was there during the rebellion of the first generation who all perished in the wilderness after another forty years because of disobedience. This man who was born a slave, who grew up under the worst of situations and tyranny, under constant persecution and tremendous adversity, who most today if under the same circumstances would say, that’s the reason I have all the problems I have because of my upbringing.
- This man despite the rough beginnings, and undesirable start, regardless of how the others around him disobey the Lord, Joshua is walking with God, and because of this God is speaking through him to lead His people to claim their promises.
- **V2-5** God in speaking to Joshua tells him that the Land is already theirs, and every place that the soles of their feet touch will belong to them. He even draws them a map saying from the wilderness as far as to the great Sea shall be their territory. Then the Lord says if anyone attempts to stand in your way don’t worry about them you will defeat them, and this is the greatest of the promises God made to Joshua > “**as I was with Moses, so I will be with you, I will not forsake you**” all of this he could count on because The Lord is with him.

- **V6-9** the only condition the Lord gave Joshua was “**to be strong and of good courage**”, He repeats this in **V7** where He says “**only be strong and very courageous**”. Because God says this twice we can deduce that **boldness in God** was a **weakness for Joshua**, wait a minute, how can a person walk with God through all manner of adversity and still struggle with weakness? Easy! Just because we persevere through trials doesn’t mean it wasn’t an intense battle > **Mk 9:23-24** a father who wanted his son healed by Jesus exemplifies this.
- We can triumph even in the midst of struggling, and for Joshua he was better at following a leader than he was at being the leader, but with God by his side all that will change. The first thing that God tells Joshua that must change is where he draws his strength from, I have no doubt seeing Moses defeat Pharaoh and watching him hold that staff out and the Red Sea part gave Joshua a tremendous push to walk through the Sea, but now Moses is gone and The Lord tells him not to look to a man, but to look in The Word for courage.
- From this day on God tells him that He wanted him to meditate in the Word day and night, and that when he opens his mouth Bible is what should come out of it not his opinion or ideas, but “**thus says The Lord**”, you know what the same should be true for us today. It’s too many opinions and feelings being passed off as being on the same level as God’s Word.
- So those were the conditions for the promise of victory, courage that comes from trusting in the knowledge and application of The Word of God, as blessings live next door to obedience for God said “The Lord your God is with you wherever you go”. Now all of this meant change was coming how so? Israel was used to hearing from Moses, now the voice their following is Joshua, they are used to a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night leading them that’s also stopped, every morning manna fell from the skies but no more honey dew from the heavens
- **V10-11** after being encouraged by The Lord’s Word, Promises, and Commandments, Joshua displays some of this boldness and courage as he gathers the officers of the people and commands them to get the people ready to move out in three days. Some of them are probably saying we can’t move until we see the cloud move, in fact where is the cloud? You can believe with this change there was some questions and opinion sharing going on.
- **V12-15** as seen in **Num 32** the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh, didn’t want to go into the Promised Land deciding rather to stay on the Eastern side of the Jordan where the prime grazing land resided for their future business venture. Joshua reminds them of their promise to fight with their brethren and just so they didn’t get any ideas of going back on their word he wisely placed them in the front of the army ensuring that they fight.
- **V16-18** this is the kind of unity that is essential in fulfilling God’s calling, for now its time for them to “**put feet to their faith**” what they had promised its time for them to fulfil. When we first gave our lives to the Lord we also said Lord whatever your will is we will do, its afterward we start to run into problems as we begin to try and live out our will instead of God’s will.

- He people understand that just as Moses was God's instrument for them to listen to and follow now Joshua is the one that they should follow, the only requirement they asked which is the correct expectation is that "**The Lord be with you as he was with Moses**".
- This statement is so important, because it tells us that when following Godly people were really not following them, because if God is with them Who were really following is The Lord as He is the one that is leading those whom we are following > **1Cor 11:1**- if they are following Paul they really are following Christ, for that's who is leading him.