

Summary

In this sermon, the pastor draws from Deuteronomy 31 to challenge believers to be strong and courageous in the face of life's many obstacles. Using the story of Israel's journey from Egypt to the Promised Land, he reminds the congregation that God's promises are real and enduring, even when the path forward is filled with giants, thick walls, and uncertainty. Just as Joshua and Caleb trusted God over their fears, believers today are called to fix their eyes on God rather than on their circumstances. The pastor also emphasizes that God is not looking for the already-qualified but for those willing to be called and shaped. Trials test and refine faith, patience builds character during the waiting, and God uses ordinary people who surrender fully to Him. The message is a call to stop hiding in the shadows, release what is holding us back, and step into the leadership and purpose God has prepared for each person.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today grateful for the gift of Your Word and the truth it carries. As we gather together, we ask that You open our eyes to see, our ears to hear, and our hearts to understand what You want to speak to each of us. Remove any fear, distraction, or doubt that might keep us from receiving what You have for us today. Give us the courage to be honest with one another and with You. May this time together draw us closer to You and to each other. We trust that You are with us, just as You promised. In Jesus name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you tried for the first time that made you nervous, and how did it turn out?

Key Verses

- Deuteronomy 31:6
- Deuteronomy 31:7
- Deuteronomy 31:8
- Ephesians 6:10
- James 1:2-4

Questions

- The pastor said that courage is not the absence of fear but the ability to look fear in the face and take on the challenge. Can you think of a time when you had to act courageously even though you were afraid? What happened?
- Joshua and Caleb had a 'different Spirit' compared to the rest of Israel. What do you think set them apart, and what does having that kind of Spirit look like in everyday life today?
- The pastor mentioned that God sometimes removes things from our lives that have become idols, even when we are not willing to let them go. How do you recognize when something has taken God's place in your life?
- The sermon described how the testing of faith produces patience, and patience works on our character while we wait for God's promises to be fulfilled. How have you seen this process play out in your own life?
- The pastor said, 'God is not calling people who are qualified. He is going to qualify people who He calls.' How does that statement challenge or encourage you when you think about the areas where God might be calling you to step up?
- Israel focused on the giants and the obstacles rather than on God's promise. In what areas of your life are you most tempted to focus on the obstacle rather than on God's faithfulness?
- The pastor challenged the congregation not to live in complacency, comparing it to dying in the wilderness instead of entering the Promised Land. What does spiritual complacency look like in your life, and what would it take to move forward?
- The sermon closed with a call for leaders to step up in the church and in their families. What is one area where you feel God might be nudging you to take a step of faith or leadership, even if you do not feel fully ready?

Life Application

This week, identify one area of your life where fear or complacency has kept you from fully trusting God or stepping into what He has called you to do. Write it down, pray over it daily, and take one concrete step toward surrendering it to God. Whether that means volunteering somewhere you have been avoiding, having a hard conversation, or simply spending more time in God's Word, choose to act with courage rather than waiting until you feel ready. Remember, God does not call the equipped. He equips the called.

Key Takeaways

- God's promises are true and enduring, even when circumstances look impossible and the waiting feels long.
- Courage is not the absence of fear but the choice to trust God and move forward in spite of fear.
- Trials and seasons of waiting are not wasted. God uses them to build character, patience, and a faith that can handle what He has prepared for us.
- God is not looking for the already-qualified. He calls ordinary people and equips them for the purpose He has placed on their lives.
- Fully surrendering every area of life to God, including the 10 percent we tend to hold back, is the key to experiencing the fullness of what He has promised.

Ending Prayer

Lord, we thank You for the reminder today that You are bigger than every giant we face, every obstacle in our path, and every fear that tries to hold us back. We confess that we do not always trust You the way we should, and we ask for Your forgiveness and Your grace to do better. Help each person in this group to take a step of courage this week, to release what they have been holding back, and to trust that You are faithful to complete what You have started in them. May we leave here not just informed but transformed, ready to be the strong and courageous people You have called us to be. We give You all the glory, all the honor, and all the praise. In Jesus name, Amen.