

Courageous
Part 1: Braveheart
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I. Introduction

- a. This message is not just designed to be a teaching, it is also meant to be an impartation.
 - i. A teaching will engage our mind, help increase our knowledge base and help us think more biblically.
 - ii. An impartation will put something in our spirit that will give us supernatural strength to live the teaching out.
- b. Each lesson taught at Alive Church is intended to be a practical teaching mixed with the supernatural deposit of revelation and strength from the Holy Spirit.

Joshua 1:1-9 NIV

¹ After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: ² "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. ³ I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. ⁴ Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. ⁵ No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

⁷ "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸ Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

- c. The words "Be strong" and "Courageous" are used in combination with each other 3 times within 3 different verses in this passage.
 - i. God was trying to get the point across to the Joshua generation and us that He has already arranged for us to have victory in the plans He has for us.
 - ii. We need to be strong and courageous to see God's promises.
- d. Background story: God made a promise to the children of Israel that He would bring them out of slavery in Egypt to a land flowing with milk and honey called Canaan.
 - i. God raised Moses up as a deliverer, who would go before the Egyptian Pharaoh to command God's people be freed.

- ii. The Israelites are finally freed after 10 miracles and plagues occur in Egypt when the Pharaoh ignores Moses' demand.
- iii. Moses and the Israelites must pass through the wilderness in order to get to their final destination of Canaan.
 - 1. During this time, the people began to murmur and complain against God and against his chosen leadership while many wanted to return to Egypt.
 - 2. However, they decided to send spies into the land to see what it was like and bring back proof of truth in God's promise.
 - 3. The spies reported that there were enemies in the land that they were too afraid of to even enter the land.
 - a. However, Joshua and Caleb believed the Israelites were well able to overcome them.
- iv. Joshua and Caleb were the only adults over the age of 20 that God allowed to enter the promised land because there was a different spirit on them.
 - 1. Moses, Aaron and all the adults over 20 years old died in the wilderness and never saw the promises of God because of their doubt and fear.
- v. After Moses' death, Joshua became the new leader and brought the Israelites into their promised land.

II. Be Strong

- a. While the enemies in the land were physically bigger than the Israelites and even more in number at certain times, Joshua 1 refers to more than just physical strength.
- b. One of the most important things that we can do as believers is stay spiritually strong in our attitude and position.
- c. Spiritual weakness makes believers more open to:
 - i. Attacks by the enemy or temptations
 - ii. Times where God's voice or presence may not be heard or felt as much as needed
 - iii. Bad attitudes or perspectives inconsistent with the Word
 - iv. Seeing serving God as an obligation instead of an opportunity
- d. We can build up our faith by doing the following:
 - i. Making time to train or spend time with God consistently
 - ii. Feeding our mind with the Word of God
 - iii. Spending time with people who build up their own faith

III. Be Courageous or Brave

- a. Bravery is needed for anything God asks us to do
 - i. I.e., praying for others, sharing our faith, inviting others to church and opening up to share in connect groups
- b. Bravery is always needed for obedience to take place.
- c. We can be brave because we know that God is always on our side.

IV. Biblical Examples of Brave People

- a. David
 - i. A giant and warrior named Goliath that stood about 8 feet tall and spoke blasphemous words against the Israelites.
 - ii. The Israelites and men who had been trained in battle were too afraid to fight Goliath.
 - iii. David was young and untrained, but had been spending time with God and knew nothing could stand against him if God was for him.
 - 1. He previously killed a bear and lion with his hands.
 - iv. David defeated Goliath with a simple slingshot and stones.
- b. Joshua and the Israelites
 - i. The Israelites had enemies in Canaan, but God promised to give them that same land.
 - ii. Joshua 1 is the beginning of God getting them ready to go into battle against the enemies that currently possessed Canaan.
 - iii. The first 10 chapters of Joshua show God giving the Israelites the victory over different cities.
 - 1. In God's mind the following was already done in Joshua 1:
 - a. Jericho and Ai were already defeated.
 - b. The Sun was already going to stand still over Gibeon to have victory of their enemies.

V. Change Can Be Difficult, Yet Possible

- a. People often see things changed in their lives when they have the courage to make changes.
 - i. For example:
 - 1. Trying to live for God while others continue to live like He doesn't exist
 - 2. Putting God as a budget priority through tithing
 - 3. Raising children not to be timid or afraid of obstacles (i.e., swimming, new sports or moving to a new place)

Proverbs 28:1 NIV

- ¹The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.
- b. One of the key ingredients to being courageous is being bold.

VI. Practical Application

- a. The Holy Spirit can give us faith to be bold in:
 - i. Starting and completing growth track
 - ii. Getting water baptized as an outward sign of faith
 - iii. Giving back more to the local church and communities by serving as a connect group leader