

Choose to be Strong and Courageous

Joshua 1

Week One of Uncommon Choices

Our Choices Matter

Last week Pastor Seth introduced us to the main idea of our series 'Uncommon Choices': "Every choice I make determines not only who I am today, but who I am choosing to become tomorrow."

Joshua in Context

1. Moses has died and Joshua has now become the leader of the nation Israel.
2. Joshua has served as a military commander and was chosen as one of the 12 spies to survey the land. He and Caleb were the only two who believed God and were ready to take the land.
3. Joshua is an elder statesman in Israel and he has learned faithful obedience under Moses.

Serve in Little Things

Joshua has been a faithful assistant to Moses. Let us remember that great leaders are prepared through faithful service in the little things. A sign above a kitchen sink reads, "Divine service conducted here three times daily."

“(Our Enemy) believes that it is only great power that can hold evil in check. But that is not what I have found. I have found it is the small things. Everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keeps the darkness at bay.”
Gandalf, The Hobbit.

Joshua's Choice

Please open your Bible to Joshua chapter 1.

In verses 1-5 notice how Joshua's choice is founded upon God's promise to give them the land from His faithfulness.

It is the same for us. Jesus has promised us abundant life through faith in Him. Our choice is to believe God's promises and faithfulness.

Joshua's Choice

Joshua is instructed directly from the LORD to “Be strong and courageous.” (Joshua 1:6-9)

1. Because Joshua is leading others into God's promises.
2. Joshua must be careful to follow God's instructions.
3. He must not be afraid or discouraged because God is with him.

Boldness

“This bold courage would not be in Joshua himself, but in God. We can be full of self-confidence that will take us to ruin, but we should instead be full of a genuine God-confidence.”

David Guzik enduringword.com

Our Choice

In Hebrew to be strong is to grow or be firm. To be courageous is to be bold. Thus the two ideas together form a call to stand boldly for the LORD. How do we do that?

Pre-Choose

1. Joshua was called to make his stand for the LORD before he entered the battle. We must do the same! If we don't and we wait until the battle is upon us the pressure will overtake us.

Bad Advice

Said no parent ever:

If everyone else is doing it it must be the right thing to do

Try to blend in with the crowd, be afraid to stand for God

Avoid hard things and quit if it gets too hard, life is easy

Find the path of least resistance and stay on it

Do cool things for others to see and only post your highlight reel

Take the shortcuts, you want to get places quickly

Choose to Battle

2. Choose to fight well in the spiritual battle. Life for the believer is not a playground but a battleground!

Internal Victory

The first place to wage war is against the sin in our own lives. We must be strong and courageous like Joshua and get God's Word onto our lips, into our heads, and worked out through our hands.

God's Spirit Guides Us

Galatians 5:16 & 25, ¹⁶“Let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves... ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.”

External Victory

Battle to stand boldly in a world where we don't belong. Jesus said in John 15:19, “¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.”