

Family Talk
Joshua 1:1-9
Be Strong

Focused
Joshua 1:6-7

We are surrounded by distractions in life, especially if you have a cell phone. They are constantly ding with alerts or they are a gateway to endless games and videos. It is easy to disconnect with the world around you and lose connection with the moment. Obviously God was not warning Joshua against the distractions of phones. God was reminding Joshua that there would be countless opportunities to get caught up in things that would keep him from accomplishing the mission before him. This would not only take boldness and courage it would also take extreme focus. The baseline for following was the law of God given through Moses. Moses struggled to keep the people focused throughout their journey. The people often wanted to turn back, complained, and worshipped false gods that they crafted. Moses had to rebuke his own siblings for being unfaithful. The task God was giving Joshua of leading the people was monumental. Joshua must not waiver, must not turn to the right or the left, but must remained focused on God and His calling! The temptation is the same for us. We can easily get so caught up in entertaining ourselves we forget that our lives are to be marked by the Gospel. We are to care more for others than ourselves. We are called to love our enemies, not work to destroy them. We must see past our own selfish motivation and pleasure to the needs of the world around us if we are to truly make a difference! Pray and ask God to give you focus today on what matters most.

Equipped
Joshua 1:8

Joshua was being commanded to lead God's chosen people into the Promised Land; clearly a task that would require boldness and confidence in God's calling as well as extreme focus. The counter side of this was the need for proper equipping. The Book of The Law was commanded to not depart from Joshua's mouth. We have all had times where we sat down, read a passage of scripture, put our Bible down, and couldn't remember what we have just read. That's why God tells Joshua to meditate on it day and night. We have to do more than just read it occasionally or listen to it read by our SS teacher or pastor. To be fully equipped is to study scripture to know it, be able to recall and quote it when needed, and be consistent in it. When the people complained, because people always complain, Joshua needed to be able to defend his decisions from the word of God. When the people cried out for answers or looked to Joshua for leadership and direction, he had to be equipped to give it! The word of God is the greatest source of answers for each and every one of us. Joshua was commanded by God to know the scripture as the leader of His chosen people. If it was that vital for someone like Joshua it should be equally as important for us. Pray today asking God to give you a love for His word as well as a plan to equip yourself with it.

Resolved

Joshua 1:9

Growing up in Florida close to Atlantic Ocean and going to the beach meant you had to learn how to handle big waves if you were going to swim. It was always fun as a kid to lock your feet into the sand as a wave crashed into you. The challenge was to see if you could keep your feet and not get knocked down and rolled up! Unfortunately life can be like that sometimes. It seems wave after wave of tragedy, turmoil, or struggles hit. Sometimes it is attacks from others, struggles at work, or medical issues. For Joshua, he grew up among a people that seemed to constantly be fighting against the leadership of Moses. Now that Moses has passed away, Joshua is being given the command of the same people. You have to imagine after the struggle he saw Moses go through he questioned God's decision for leadership, "Really God, me?" That is why this comes at the end of the command. God told him to be strong and courageous; to equip himself with the word of God, and to not lose his focus on what he was being called to do. The culmination of God's command to Joshua is to not be frightened or overwhelmed by what he was being given. Joshua needed to sink his feet into the sand and stand against the waves that would come. What I love about this was Joshua's ability to stand had nothing to do with himself, but rather God. God promised to be with him wherever he went. When we are being faithful to God and set our feet in the sand, the sand is God and His presence holding us secure in times of waves crashing in our lives. Pray and ask God to help you be resolved to stand and accomplish all that God has determined for you in your life.

Beyond the Circumstances

Philippians 4:13

How many times have we heard this verse quoted after a big win by a sports player? They quote it like God gave them a supernatural ability in that moment to be able to accomplish some spectacular sport feat. Paul was sitting in jail when he wrote these words. It wasn't after he had ripped the chains from his arms and walked through miraculously opened cell doors and this is the transcript from the sideline reporter. Paul was sitting in jail and remembering when God had provided in abundance and when God provided in the hard times. This passage is not about the ability to suddenly do some amazing act that seemed beyond your own ability. The passage is testimony of God's faithfulness to sustain you regardless of your circumstances. Paul had been shipwrecked, flogged, stoned, and yet never quit. God was with him in each of these circumstances giving him what he needed to endure each situation. It is often easy to acknowledge God when things are really good and we are thankful. The challenge is to do the same when we are going through a dry spell or in the midst of a trial in our life. Pray and ask God to help you be able to declare that in all things you can praise and rely on His strength through Christ.