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Go and make disciples!

E-votional 8

Have I not commanded you?

Joshua 1:9 (ESV),

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

I always used to read this passage in such a way that I felt as if God Himself was commanding me to be strong and courageous. However, in recent weeks, I have been looking at it in another light altogether.

What I mean is that from Joshua 1:1-8, we see God clearly laying out the commands. For example, Joshua is now the leader in place of Moses and as such is going to be leading the children of Israel into the promised land. God says things like this in verse 3,

Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses.

And also in verse 5,

No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.

Here God is laying some foundational truths down for Joshua to reflect on. God's desire, I am fully persuaded to believe, is that his followers are strong and courageous. In other words, they are to be confident in God.

Three times in fact, between the 1st and 9th verses of Joshua chapter 1, God tells Joshua to be strong and courageous.

Back to the idea of the command. While it is absolutely needed that God's people be strong and courageous, I think of being strong and courageous to be something that we get to be rather than being commanded to be. Let me explain this. Here God lays out some really powerful details and tells Joshua very plainly

that He Himself is going to be with him and also that everything He promised is going to happen. There is a high level of confidence exuding from God Himself just in His words. And the fact that it is God speaking here should automatically bring about some major strength and courage. Nevertheless, the time still comes for every believer then and now where we are tested in what we believe.

For this reason, it seems that God was more interested in giving Joshua the word and evidence he needed to be strong and courageous in the first place. What I mean is that when the God who created everything speaks and says what He is about to do our response ought to be an inborn courage and strength that rises up from within at which point it is manifested in the life of God's people whom He is calling.

The truth is, however, again we are tested. For which reason, we are to meditate on what God said rather than on what the other voices are presuming. We as believers in Christ Jesus are the light of the world and are to walk strong and very courageous. But again, it is more than a command, it is assuring confidence that what God said He will surely do.

Are you having trouble walking in strength and courage? Is there some sort of unhealthy anticipation for the future within you?

Then recollect on the time the Lord has said to you, Have I not commanded you? I'm telling you, His words are true and He will never leave you or forsake you. Cultivate a mindset that sees this truth and meditate on it so that you can begin to see God in a way that unlocks your eternal vision as opposed to the temporal way we are used to.

The Lord bless you and keep you in Jesus name.

In Christ's Love,
Chris and Jeanne
Lights and Perfection, Inc



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