

Rise Up! Be Bold

This is year two of the Alliance Women's theme, Rise Up! and the national leadership team has decided upon, Rise Up! Be Bold as the focus. Our theme verse this year is Psalm 138:3 which says, "In the day I cried out, You answered me, and made me bold with strength in my soul."

So often we may feel the Lord asking us to follow Him down a particular path or direction He has for us, but we feel afraid. We can trust Him without wavering when we understand that He is good and will be with us.

This year we will be exploring this theme in greater depth during our events, in our newsletter and articles. My prayer is that you will lean into this theme and experience God's boldness in your soul.





Get Ready, Set, Go!

Joshua 1:6-11 ~

Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. Be strong and very courageous.

Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.

This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua then commanded the officers of Israel, "Go through the camp and tell the people to get their provisions ready. In three days you will cross the Jordan River and take possession of the land the Lord your God is giving you."

I had been awake since 3 a.m. and was struggling with anxiety over a few different situations. A family member was recently diagnosed with bipolar disorder and I was really concerned with how to help them, especially when they were having a depressive episode and was filled with anger and irritability. My worries threatened to derail my entire day.

But then the Lord brought the passage above to mind and it was like a healing balm to my soul. Joshua, who was quite a courageous commander, was obviously just as frail and human as the rest of us as we see the Lord remind him over and over not to give in to fear and anxiety. The phrase, "Be strong and courageous," is repeated multiple times.

I also saw something else in this passage. God was planning on doing a mighty work through Joshua and prepared Joshua for this gargantuan task with the following directives.

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Get Ready

In order to lead the people where God wanted them to go, Joshua had to be ready. He needed to be grounded in the word of God. The Lord tells Joshua to meditate on His directives day and night.

When we stay focused on God's word and meditate on God's promises, we will begin to feel emboldened to face whatever is ahead. The same was true of Joshua. However, so often we start meditating on the problem and not God's word and that is where we can begin to get sidetracked with the anxiety.

Set

God reminds Joshua of what He has been telling him all along. "Haven't I said, 'Be strong and courageous?'" The Lord is encouraging Joshua to put his faith in the Lord. He says, "Don't be fearful. Don't be discouraged. Don't be afraid. I am with you."

As I read this passage I began to work on memorizing verse 9, "Haven't I commanded, 'Be strong and courageous?' "Don't be afraid or discouraged for the Lord, your God is with you wherever you go." As I repeated the verse multiple times in order to memorize it, I felt peace and calm wash over me.

More importantly, the Lord gave me a direction to go as I work to help my son. We can face whatever comes our way when we set our mind on God's promises.

Go!

Joshua then tells all officers to get the people to pack up to follow God's command to go into the land. They weren't supposed to just to sit around. They were to be ready to head out. That took a step of faith because they had to trust what God was telling their leader.

Following where the Lord leads requires us to set aside the anxiety and take action. When we recognize that God can be trusted we can step out in faith and follow whatever path He is leading us, even the hard ones.

I'm thankful that God brought this passage to mind. I continue to meditate on His word so I can get my mental state in alignment with where the Lord is leading and then walk forward with boldness down the path He sends me.

You can do this too, and it can be done because we can trust, without a doubt, that the Lord is with us wherever we go!



"In the day when I cried out, You answered me, And made me bold with strength in my soul."

PSALM 138:3

Send project money to: Margaret Kelwaski, 3601 Pelton Road, Sherman, NY 14781 Our district goal for 2024-2025 is \$12,000

