

THE LORD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

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Joshua 1:1-18

1. THE LORD'S PROMISES ARE GIVEN BEFORE HIS COMMANDS

JOSHUA 1:1-5 **1** After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, **2** "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. [*this book begins right where Deuteronomy ends. Why did Moses not get to enter the promised land?*]. **3** Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon *I have given to you*, just as I promised to Moses. **4** From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun *shall be your territory*. **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.

- **This is what the LORD did to Abraham in Genesis 12.** "Go from your country the the land I will show you...I will bless you and make you a great nation." Only then did He command Abraham to be circumcised or offer sacrifices.
- **This is what the LORD did to the people of Israel in the book of Exodus:** He set them free from slavery, bringing them out of Egypt before He had even given them His Law.
- **And this is what the LORD does to us in the Gospel of Jesus:** "Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yolk upon you. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

2. THE LORD'S PROMISES GIVE STRENGTH AND COURAGE

JOSHUA 1:6 Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.

The World and your flesh says, "Be true to yourself! Whatever dreams you've got, chase them and don't let anyone stand in your way. Be strong and courageous."

- **Q. Do you see where that "strength and courage" come from? A.** From you. From your abilities, your wisdom, your desires—it comes from you. What a terrible source of strength and courage. It won't work. You can't handle that weight.
- **If you are looking to yourself for strength and courage...**When you succeed, you'll be prideful and hated. When you fail, you'll be depressed and hate yourself. **The world is swimming with those living in pride or depression**
- **Joe Paterno was the head football coach of the Penn State Nittany Lions for about 60 years. He was a great success, but was fired after a terrible scandal. When asked what the hardest part was, he said,** "My name. I have spent my whole life trying to make that name mean something. And now it's gone." **He also said,** "Success without honor is an unseasoned dish; it will satisfy your hunger, but it won't taste good."

But the Gospel says, "The LORD will give you an inheritance. The LORD will not cease to do good to you. In the gospel, God says to us, 'Because of what Jesus has done for you, I will be with you. I will never leave you or forsake you.'"

- **The promises of God to His people give strength and courage because no matter what successes or failures we have on our own, the LORD will never leave us or forsake us.** When we succeed, we know it's because of His grace and power; when we fail He forgives us and welcomes us home.
- **So the writer to the Hebrews says, in Hebrews 13:9,** "Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace."
- **The Bible is saturated with the promises of God that are meant to be embolden you and fortify you!**
- **ROMANS 16:20** "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet." **JOHN 6:37,40** All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out...everyone who looks on the Son & believes in him [shall] have eternal life, & I will raise him up on the last day." **2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-17** "So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison."

- **Q. Will you neglect the Study of God's Word & sever yourself from the true source of strengthened & courage?** If so, you'll remain weak & fearful. **Q. Or will you give yourself to the study of the Bible & be strengthened & emboldened through His unwavering promises to you in Christ Jesus?** If so, you can be strong & courageous. He keeps His promises.

3. THE LORD'S PROMISES ARE POWER FOR OBEYING HIS COMMANDS

JOSHUA 1:7 Only be strong and very courageous, **being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you.** Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.

- **Oh! How many of us waste our lives by paying lip service to Jesus and His grace, but neglecting the power of grace that should make us strong and courageous in order that we may be *VERY CAREFUL* to do according to all that the LORD has commanded us through His servants in the Scripture.**

4. OBEEDIENCE TO THE LORD'S COMMANDS BRINGS LIFE

JOSHUA 1:8-9 **8** This Book of the Law **shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it.** For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. **9** 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.”

- **So Paul says in COLOSSIANS 3:1-5, 1** If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. **3** For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. **5** Put to death therefore what is earthly in you...
- **We're promised to prosper and be successful! How great, right?** Please don't forget the LORD's definition of prosperity and success are far different than the worlds, and, likely, far different than yours.
- In 2014, Meriam Yahya Ibrahim, a twenty-seven-year-old Sudanese woman, was sentenced to death for refusing to renounce her Christian faith. She was accused of converting from Islam to Christianity and then marrying a Christian man. She was also sentenced to one hundred lashes for having a child with her Christian husband. All of this could have been avoided if Meriam would have simply denied Jesus, as many before her had done in order to escape punishment and a death sentence. But Meriam refused to recant her faith... **THAT'S SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY IN THE LORD'S EYES!**

And so how does Joshua respond to these promises and commands of the LORD?

JOSHUA 1:10-18 **10** And Joshua commanded the officers of the people, **11** “Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, ‘Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving you to possess.’”

12 And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh Joshua said, **13** “Remember the word that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, saying, ‘The Lord your God is providing you a place of rest and will give you this land.’ **14** Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land that Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but all the men of valor among you shall pass over armed before your brothers and shall help them, **15** until the Lord gives rest to your brothers as he has to you, and they also take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and shall possess it, the land that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise.”

5. DISOBEDIENCE TO THE LORD'S COMMANDS BRINGS DEATH

16 And they answered Joshua, “All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. **17** Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may the Lord your God be with you, as he was with Moses! **18** Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and courageous.”

- **ROMANS 8:5-6** **5** For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. **6** For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

- **The Good News in this book, especially here in chapter 1, is that Jesus is like Joshua, but even better.**

- **He's doesn't only tell us the promises of the LORD; He is the LORD.**

- **He doesn't simply act as an instrument of the fulfillment of the promises of the LORD, He himself is the fulfillment of all the good promises.**

- **The LORD promises to give you a future and a hope—eternal life in fellowship with Him—and Jesus, because we have all disobeyed the LORD's words & deserve to be put to death—Jesus died the death we deserve to die on the cross so that the promises of eternal life & peace & the righting of all wrongs could come to pass!**

- **2 CORINTHIANS 1:19-20** “For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you...was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. **For all the promises of God find their Yes in Jesus.**”