



CHAPTERS OF LIFE

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

Joshua 1:1-9 (NLT2) ¹ *After the death of Moses the LORD's servant, the LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant. He said, ² "Moses my servant is dead. Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them. ³ I promise you what I promised Moses: 'Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you— ⁴ from the Negev wilderness in the south to the Lebanon mountains in the north, from the Euphrates River in the east to the Mediterranean Sea in the west, including all the land of the Hittites.' ⁵ No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you. ⁶ "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. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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."*

1. Life is filled with **transitions**. These transitions could be compared to **chapters** in a book.
2. Sometimes the chapters of life seem to **drag** along and at other times they change quickly.
3. The words from God to Joshua are a source of **comfort** and **encouragement** to us as we enter new chapters of life.
4. Courage is needed to **begin** a new chapter and strength is needed to **finish**.
5. God command Joshua 3 times (6,7,9) in this passage (2 more times later in the book) to be strong and courageous.

1. Strength and courage come when we recognize we are commissioned by God Josh (1:1-6)

1. The death of **Moses** required a new leader for Israel.
2. Joshua had **prepared** and **trained** for this assignment.
3. Joshua had been given specific instructions.
 - a. **lead** the people into the land
 - b. **defeat** the enemy
 - c. **claim** the inheritance
4. Joshua had been given promises to secure His strength and courage.

2. Strength and Courage grow as we obey God completely

1. Obedience requires **alertness**.
 2. Obedience requires **complete** devotion.
 3. Obedience requires **staying** on the **path**.
- Proverbs 4:26-27 (NLT2) ²⁶ *Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path.* ²⁷ *Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.*

Then you will be successful in everything you do.

4. **Study** the Word.
5. **Think** about the Word of God continually, day and night.
6. Be sure to **obey** it **completely**.

Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.

3. Strength and Courage are secure as we recognize God's Presence

Matthew 1:23 (NLT2) ²³ *“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”*

Matthew 28:20 (NLT2) ²⁰ *Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

1. God is **with** you.
2. He will **sustain** you.
3. He will **protect** you.
4. He will **keep** you.
5. He will **empower** you.

**Ephesians 6:10 (NLT2) A final word:
Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.**