



Welcome back to our first LG session of the Fall season! As an opener, please share something you experienced/appreciated from your summer... Also, what did you do, read, experience that strengthened your faith-walk with Jesus?

Imagine you are Joshua, and you are camped across a flooded river from the promised land that you expected Moses to lead you into. You hear God speak this to you. Read **Joshua 1:1-9**. What might *you* be feeling/thinking, if you were in Joshua's sandals?

We learned on Sunday that one a brief space of time, Joshua was actually told to be strong and courageous 6x (Read Deut. 31:7-10; Deut. 31:23; Josh. 1:6,7,9,16-18). Why might Joshua have needed to be told 6x to "be strong and courageous"?

Why might you need multiple exhortations to be strong & courageous? (something you are presently going through, facing soon? present weaknesses? future challenges? past issues to face? relationships to mend? temptations to overcome? weighty pressures?)

Is God is being naive or unrealistic to command you to be strong & courageous? Do you think that it is possible to obey His command? Does He actually expect this of you?

On Sunday, Gerry highlighted three reasons or enabling factors why Joshua could (and why we can) live with strong courageous faith.

### **WE CAN LIVE WITH STRONG COURAGEOUS FAITH...**

#### **1. because God Chooses Us for His Purposes** (read 1:1-4)

- God's calling on us (as He chose Joshua, so He chooses us for His purposes)

Q: what are some of the general purposes of God that He has chosen us?

Q: are you aware of a few specific purposes that God has chosen you for?

F.B. Meyer, "When people know they have been called to a certain service, they are invincible. They are not unconscious of their inadequacies, insensible to the difficulties, nor invulnerable to ridicule and criticism; but they look steadily away to the declared purpose of God and yield themselves to be the channels through which it may operate."

What takes your focus off of the purposes of God? What helps you keep focus?

Read **Ephesians 2:10**. What works has God created you to walk in (give yourself to)?

## **2. because God Empowers Us with His Presence** (read 1:5-6,9)

- God's presence with us (as God promised to be with Joshua, so He is with us)

God promised to be with Joshua, just as with Moses, *wherever* he would go. Are there places/situations where you are tempted to forget or doubt the presence of God?

Read **Romans 8:35,37-39**. Then, read **Psalm 23:4**. Is there any situation we face without God's presence? Do you actually, deep down believe this?

Read **Ephesians 3:16-17a**. Whose presence strengthens us with power deep inside? Can you share an example when the Spirit strengthened you in such a way?

Read **Hebrews 13:5-6**. Here, the Holy Spirit highlights the battle between trusting the presence of what Jesus called a rival god vs. trusting the presence God Himself. In your heart of hearts, have you made the deep choice to trust in the presence of God more than the presence of money? How does the presence of God enable you to live with stronger, more courageous faith than the mere presence of money?

## **3. because God Blesses Us thru His Word** (1:7-8)

- God's voice to us (as God spoke thru His Word to Joshua, so He does to us)

What is biblical meditation? How is it different from Eastern religious practice?

What does the Holy Spirit do and communicate as we meditate on Scripture?

Read **James 1:22-25**. What is the goal of reading and meditating on Scripture?

Read **Psalm 1:1-2**. What are the results of living in alignment with the Word of God?

Erwin Lutzer, "Joshua knew that the voice he listened to would determine the direction he would walk. Only if he regularly heard the voice of God would he have the courage to do what seemed impossible."

- What "voices" try to speak louder to you than God's Spirit through His Word?

Share an example of how God's Spirit has blessed you thru the influence of His Word when you have felt fear or discouragement.

### **PRAY:**

Pray for one another, where you need to walk with "**strong. courageous. faith.**"  
Pray for our Church, that we may collectively do the same.