



Sunday June 21, 2009 Be Strong!

Joshua 1:6,7,9

6 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

"be strong" Heb. 'chazaq'

= to strengthen, to be courageous

= to harden, become resolute, take hold of, to fasten upon, to seize,

= be constant, to continue, be established

In the passage above, God commands Joshua to "be strong and courageous" in relation to 3 areas:

[expound on each of these 3 areas with examples]

Vs 6: Be strong and courageous – because **you have an assignment to complete**, a mission to accomplish, a task to fulfill

Vs 7: Be strong and courageous – because **I want you to stay with my instructions**, stick with my Word, don't deviate from what I have commanded you

Vs 9: Be strong and courageous – because **I do not want you to come under fear** or discouragement. I am with you where ever you go.

Now we address two common reasons why we tend to get discouraged and want to give up?

1, Because of circumstances

– everything around cries discouragement, give up

Zechariah 8:9-13

9 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Let your hands be strong, You who have been hearing in these days These words by the mouth of the prophets, Who spoke in the day the foundation was laid For the house of the LORD of hosts, That the temple might be built.

10 For before these days There were no wages for man nor any hire for beast; There was no peace from the enemy for whoever went out or came in; For I set all men, everyone, against his neighbor.

11 But now I will not treat the remnant of this people as in the former days,' says the LORD of hosts.

12 'For the seed shall be prosperous, The vine shall give its fruit, The ground shall give her increase, And the heavens shall give their dew— I will cause the remnant of this people To possess all these.

13 And it shall come to pass That just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, So I will save you, and you shall be a blessing. Do not fear, Let your hands be strong.'

This is exactly how the people felt when they had to rebuild the temple. Conditions were bad – people didn't have jobs, there was conflict and fighting.

But now God says "Be strong and work"!



2, Because we feel the challenge is too great, too big for us

Proverbs 24:10 If you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength is small.

Jeremiah 12:5 "If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, Then how can you contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, In which you trusted, they wearied you, Then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan?"

Matthew Henry's Comments:

If thou hast run with the footmen and they have wearied thee, and run thee quite out of breath, then how wilt thou contend with horses? If the injuries done him by the men of Anathoth made such an impression upon him, what would he do when the princes and chief priests at Jerusalem should set upon him with their power, as they did afterwards? If he was so soon tired in a land of peace, where there was little noise or peril, what would he do in the swellings of Jordan, when that overflows all its banks and frightens even lions out of their thickets.

Now lets talk about 3 ways by which we receive strength to Be strong!

Strength comes from knowing God

Daniel 11:32

.... but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Know who God is in your life:

He is so wise, He cannot make a mistake - even when you feel everything is going wrong.

He is so good, He cannot do you wrong - even when you ask "why me Lord", "why did this happen to me?"

He is so strong, He will not let you down - even when you feel ready to give up with no more strength to carry on.

He is so faithful, He will not abandon you

He is so compassionate, He will not harm you

He is so believing, He still sees good in you

He is so bountiful, He withholds nothing good from you

He is all knowing, He sees the end from the beginning

He is unchanging, you can count on Him

He is so patient, He is never in a hurry - but we want things to happen now.

He is so infinite, He does not explain everything - but we want to have it all figured out.

He is so sovereign, He is not afraid to appear "un-sovereign" and include us in the plan and give us responsibility - but we'd like God to handle it all.

2 Chronicles 16:9

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

Isaiah 40:31

But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 30:15



For thus says the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: "In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and confidence shall be your strength." But you would not,

God imparts strength when we quieten down. He says "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10)

Strength comes from the Word

Deuteronomy 11:8

"Therefore you shall keep every commandment which I command you today, that you may be strong, and go in and possess the land which you cross over to possess,

A "now" word from God – learn to receive a "now" word from God
e.g. David at Ziklag 1 Samuel 30

Strength comes from knowing God's mandate ("calling" or "assignment")

Joshua 1:6

6 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

Conclusion

You know that you have been called, anointed and sent on a heavenly mission. Though there are challenges, you will succeed.

What amazes me is that the "outcome" is dependent on my "being strong". If I give up, if I quit, it is likely that the assignment or mission will go unaccomplished in my life. God will not be defeated – but if I quit, there will remain an unfulfilled mandate.

So I must "Be strong!"

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WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

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