

## THE SOLDIER OF THE LORD

JOSHUA 1:1-9

All of us have been drafted...  
we have been called to be soldiers for the Lord.

What we do now echoes in eternity.

That means that as soldiers,  
we have responsibilities or duties to perform.

We read of Joshua's commissioning in this first chapter.

Moses was dead, and Joshua was called to 'arise and go'.

God was calling him to lead the nation of Israel into the Promised Land  
and possess it.

In like manner we are to possess all that God has for us as believers.

Let's begin our study this evening and look at chapter one.

*<sup>1</sup> After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: <sup>2</sup> "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. <sup>3</sup> I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. <sup>4</sup> Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Great Sea [a] on the west. <sup>5</sup> No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. (Joshua 1:1-5)*

These five verses speak of...

I. **The Duty of Courage and Strength**

A. Joshua is Commissioned for a Test of Faith.

1. Jordan was in flood stage (cf 3:15)
2. Here was a great host of people  
(probably nearly 3 million,  
plus belongings, livestock, etc.).
3. There were no ferries,  
no bridges,  
no boats,  
no wading the river.
4. Before they faced any of the people of the land,  
they had to cross the Jordan.
5. There was no hint of  
how they were supposed to do this,  
just the command to go.
6. Many times in life,  
if we are going to be used of God,  
we must face undertakings  
in which we cannot see the way.
7. Faith knows that God will make a way.
8. God knows all,  
and with His command comes His provision.

B. First Word of Encouragement. 1:6 ‘*Be strong...*’

1. Strength is expected, not ours...but His!
2. The word “strength” comes from a word that means, “twisted together.”
3. A rope is strong because it has many strands twisted together.
4. This is the meaning of Ephesians 6:10....  
“Be strong in the Lord...”
5. We are twisted together with Him, to live by His strength.

<sup>58</sup> *Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (1Cor 15:58)*

<sup>7</sup> *For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. (2 Ti 1:7)*

- a. We must let Christ’s strength be our strength.
- b. Walking by faith, believing Him for His power and strength.
- c. God says, “... *as I was with Moses, so I will be with you*” (1:5b)

### c. Second Word of Encouragement (1:6)

<sup>6</sup> *‘[be] courageous...because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. (Joshua 1:6)*

1. Courage is also a requirement, a must...

2. God is the God of all encouragement.

a. <sup>14</sup> *Wait for the LORD;*

*be strong and take heart*

*and wait for the LORD. (Ps 27:14)*

b. <sup>24</sup> *Be strong and take heart,*

*all you who hope in the LORD. (Ps 31:24)*

c. <sup>6</sup> *each helps the other*

*and says to his brother, “Be strong!” (Isa 41:6)*

Verses 7-8 speak of...

## II. **The Duty of Obedience to the Word.**

<sup>7</sup> *Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. <sup>8</sup> Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. (Joshua 1:8)*

A. God gave Joshua the recipe for success.

1. If we want to prosper,
2. If we want to have success,
3. we have to us God's key for such a life.

B. First, Joshua was prepared to command by first obeying.

1. No person can exercise authority and do it well,  
until first they are under the authority of another.

No person is free from authority over him  
(no matter how many people may be under him,  
or how much authority he may have).

2. We all must submit to authority over us ...  
and ultimately to God and His Word.
3. God's Word is our "marching" orders.
4. Israel was about to march into the land  
that had been promised so many centuries previously.
5. All was to take place under God's command.
6. As it was for them,  
God's Word is also our guide for conduct and action.
  - a. God's work must be done in God's way,  
under the direction of God's Word.
  - b. Let's not reject or resist God-given "authority."

*<sup>29</sup> Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men! (Acts 5:29)*

Jesus tells us,

*<sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. (John 15:14)*

- c. If we want to make spiritual progress in our lives, we must submit to the authority of God’s Word.

- c. Second, Joshua was prepared to Command by his daily meditation.

*<sup>8</sup> Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. (Joshua 1:8)*

-- It is as if the Psalmist meditated on Joshua’s words when he wrote the first Psalm,

*<sup>1</sup> Blessed is the man  
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked  
or stand in the way of sinners  
or sit in the seat of mockers.*

*<sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.*

*<sup>3</sup> He is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither. (Psa 1:1-3)*

1. The command was to meditate, not just read.
2. By meditation we make it our very own.
3. Mere intellectual acquaintance to the Word of God is not enough; it must be applied to your life.
4. The best obedience comes from the best knowledge and best knowledge comes from meditation and meditation brings wisdom.

### III. **The Assurance of Victory.**

*<sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”*

A. We saw in v. 8 that to be saturated with the Word of God is to be assured of victory.

1. No weapon against us can prosper if we are walking, talking, living, acting, and resting in the power of the Word of God.
2. Joshua was very conscious of his own inadequacy and his weakness.

3. He never thought he “could whip them.”
4. But God said,  
“be strong”;  
“do not be terrified”;  
“do not be discouraged” (1:9)
5. The Lord was promising  
sure victory on the basis of his obedience.
6. This is our promise today.

B. Why do so many not experience victory  
in their Christian lives?

1. Often it is because we are too “big” for God to use.
2. We are full of our own schemes,  
our own way of doing things,  
and our own selfish, proud ways.
3. God must humble us, break us, and empty us.
4. This comes from submission and obedience.
5. There is no short cut to victory.
6. We are called to be faithful, and obedient.

C. Joshua was about to lead a nation  
that was not used to warfare into battle.

1. It wouldn't be easy.

2. It would require strength, courage, and obedience.
3. But there was a promise of victory.
4. The same is true for us today.
  - a. God has called us to ‘arise and go over’.
  - b. We must also do so with courageous faith, His strength, and implicit obedience to His Word.
  - c. But the victory is ours!
5. We can still count on the Lord to do everything He promised Joshua He would do!

- a. He still gives victory over all our enemies:

*<sup>4</sup> ...And this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is he that overcomes the world, but he that believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (1 John 4b-5)*

- b. He is still ever-present and all powerful:

*<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>20</sup> And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matt 28:18-20)*

c. He is still faithful:

<sup>5</sup> *...because God has said,  
“Never will I leave you;  
never will I forsake you.”* (Heb 13:5b)

d. He still keeps His promises

<sup>21</sup> *being fully persuaded that God had power to do  
what he had promised.* (Rom 4:21)

e. He still gives absolute victory

<sup>57</sup> *But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.* (1Co 15:57)

What do we have to do to see these things come to pass in our lives?

Just one thing: Trust God!

When we can learn to place our faith in God  
at all times  
in every situation,  
then we will walk in victory in our lives.

When everything else fails,  
faith will ever stand the test!

We might let the Lord down,  
but He will never fail the believer  
who has their faith in Him!

What we do no echoes in eternity!