

SERVING GOD WITH COURAGE

JOS 1:1 Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, **2Moses my servant is dead**; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, *even* to the children of Israel. **3Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you**, as I said unto Moses. **4**From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. **5**There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, *so* I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. **6Be strong and of a good courage**: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them. **7Only be thou strong and very courageous**, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it *to* the right hand or *to* the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

Although Joshua gleaned faith principals from Moses, he needed to become confident that God was able to perform miracles for him in the same manner as God had done for Moses. By mentoring Joshua much earlier Moses gave Joshua a great foundation for the future leadership of God's people. However Joshua was reluctant to get started, hence the phrase "Moses my servant is dead".

Spiritual mentors may teach us from time to time, but they can't teach us forever. Soon it will be our turn to lead God's people and minister to their needs! The Lord who is the heavenly guide, will prosper us when we obey His voice and walk in His pathways. Courage is what we determine to take from God Himself.

Joshua possessed and acted upon a gift of faith. Note Joshua's faith! (Josh 3:9-10)

JOS 3:9 And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, Come hither, and **hear the words of the LORD your God**. **10**And Joshua said, **Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you**, and *that* he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Hivites, and the Perizzites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Jebusites.

Joshua was a man of obedience. Considering the consistency of days and days of marching, the "shout" may have been viewed by some as ridiculous. The obedience to all the details of what God said to Joshua was the catalyst that moved God's hand to destroy the walls of Jericho. (Josh 6:6-16)

Courage gave them the ability to walk around the walls of Jericho for seven days. Obedience gave them the ability to see a great victory of flattened walls.