



Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

Short Study 014: Be Strong in the Lord

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Read Joshua 1:1-9

Joshua was about to take on the huge responsibility of succeeding Moses as leader of the Exodus community, commissioned to enter and conquer the Promised Land. He would need more than his natural abilities for such an undertaking. Twice the Lord told him "Be strong and of good courage" (verse 6 and 9), but He also gave him the resources to enable these qualities. Similar resources will be invaluable to us as we endeavour to meet the responsibilities, challenges and battles of the Christian life.

- 1. The Promises of God.** You will find them in verses 3 to 5a. What are they?
- 2. The Presence of God** (verses 5b and 9). Our Lord has given us a similar promise, also in the context of fulfilling a commission. What is the commission, and how long will the Lord be with us?
- 3. The Word of God** (v8). There were not many scriptures in Joshua's day – only the commands given to Moses on Mount Sinai (Deut 5:31) – but those he had were sufficient to guide the behaviour of him and his people in the will of God. Today we have far more Scriptures in the Old and New Testaments (*read* 2 Tim 3:16-17). Notice what Joshua was to do about them:
 - (i) Observe them without deviation (v7). What would be the result (verse 7b)?
 - (ii) Keep them constantly in mind (*"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth"* v8a NKJV or *"don't for a minute let this Book of The Revelation be out of mind."* v 8a THE MESSAGE)
 - (iii) Meditate on them (8b). "Meditate" means to keep going over and over the passage or part of a passage in your mind, thinking about its meaning and application.
 - (iv) Observe them all (verse 8b)

To think about: Can you think of any promises God had given us that encourage us to go forth in strength and/or courage?

To dig deeper: With the aid of a Concordance, find other references to being strong and/or courageous (or follow chain references from Josh 1:6 and Eph 6:10).
(A tip on using Concordances: Look up other parts of speech (noun, verb etc.) associated with the word you are researching. e.g. *Strength*, as well and *Strong*.)