

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS! (part one)

The phrase, Be Strong and Courageous, was given as a command (kal imperative) three times in our lesson text (Josh.1:6, 7, 9) **“Have I not commanded (lo tsawah / piel pf) you?”** (Josh.1:9)

The following three reasons are given to Joshua, by the Lord for why he must be strong and courageous as the Lord’s appointed leader of Israel.

- **Possession of the land by Lord** “For (ki) [reason why] you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.” (Josh.1:6)
- **Prosperity in the land by the Lord** “So that (leman) [reason why] you may have success wherever you go.” (Josh.1:7)
- **Presence of the Lord in the land** “For (ki) [reason why] the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Josh.1:9)

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of the Lord’s command for Joshua to BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS in leading the Lord’s people in the plan of God.

1. **We will begin by explaining the Hebrew meanings of the words STRONG (chazaq) and COURAGEOUS (amets).**
 - **Strong** refers to an inner strength that comes from one’s ability to stay mentally focused on the Word of God, no matter what the circumstances and without giving into mental attitude sins like doubt or fear (James 1:2-8).
 - **Courageous** refers to a positive attitude developed from trusting the promises and character of God. Not giving up or throwing in the towel and bearing up under stress. (Rom.5:1-5; 1 Pet.1:6-9). A dying David gave this advice to Solomon, as he became leader of Israel (1 Kings 2:1-4).
2. **“Strong and Courageous” refers to the mental attitude dynamics (MAD) ‘thinking’ of a spiritually advancing believer, the result of consistently applying the faith cycle amidst maximum testing. (1 Cor.10:13; 2 Cor.5:7). Heb.11:5-7).**
 - “Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might.” (Eph.6:10)
 - “Be on the alert, standing firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.” (1 Cor.16:13)

Gideon is a classic example of a spiritual advancing (immature) Believer who was called upon, by the Lord for a task that was within his Spiritual capacity. Unfortunately, he was full of excuses, convinced that he was not able to complete the task - in his own ability – and he was correct! (Judges 6:11-18).

Being “Strong and courageous” is necessary, to complete the faith cycle no matter what stage of spiritual growth you’re at. (Heb.5:13-14). Young David is an example of a spiritual advancing Believer who learned about **mental attitude dynamics (MAD)** in regards to completing the faith cycle (1 Sam.17:37, 47).

3. The Lord gives us five insights into the inner working of MAD from our lesson text (Josh.1:1-9).

- 1 st “Be careful to do all that is written in it.” (Josh.1:7-8)
- 2 nd “Do not turn to the right or to the left.” (Josh.1:7) (Rom.12:2)
- 3 rd “Do not let the Book of the Law depart from your mouth.” (Josh.1:8)
- 4 th “Meditate on it day and night.” (Josh.1:8) (Col.3:2)
- 5 th “Do not tremble or be dismayed.” (Josh.1:9) (2 Thess.2:2)

“For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.” (2 Tim.1:7)

“Say to those with anxious heart, ‘take courage, and fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance; the recompense of God will come, but He will save you.’ (Isa.35:4; Phil.4:6-7)

4. We learn that it is possible to spend every day studying the Word of God and yet fail to cycle the proper doctrine to that specific area that we are struggling with in our life.

Here are four examples:

- Abraham’s failure to deal with the famine in the land out of fear that led him to lie about Sarah and put others at risk (Gen.12:10-20)
- The 12 sent out to spy out the promised land failed in the faith cycle, being overwhelmed with the possibility of the adversity facing them (Num.13:1-2, 25-29, 33; 14:1-4).
- Moses struck the rock at Meribah out of anger and disgust with people (Num.20:8-12; 27:12-14).
- King Saul’s failure, out of leadership arrogance resulting in divine discipline – which he refused to acknowledge (1 Sam.15:10-11, 17-19, 26-29, 35; 18:12).

“We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.” (2 Cor.10:5-6)

5. The difference between courage and cowardice is the ability to: (1) Identify the correct Bible Doctrine to be applied to the human experience and then: (2) Having the strength to complete the faith cycle under maximum pressure.

Mental attitude sins like doubt, fear, trembling and dismay lead to subjective and irrational (old man) thinking regarding one’s circumstances (Mark 4:40-41; John 14:1, 27).

There are no hopeless situations in the CWL, only challenges (opportunities) to apply the faith cycle! (Ps.56:3-4; 84:12; Rom.4:20-21).

A young David proved that there is no difference between the “charge of the mosquito” and “the charge of the elephant”. Because, when applying the faith cycle it is God and not you - who delivers (Prov.29:25; Phil.3:15).

WHAT ABOUT YOU? Is this your prayer - “Not my will, but Thy will be done?”

If So:

- Have you identified your situation by the Word of God properly?
- Have you sought out the proper Doctrine (God’s Promise) for this situation?
- Does your mate agree with your Doctrinal evaluation? Have you ask him / her?
- Do other spiritually mature Believers agree with your Doctrinal position?
- Have they suggested any other Doctrinal view?
- Do you feel that God is fulfilling His responsibility to this Doctrine, His Promise?
- Step back and take a hard, long look again! (1 Cor.2:5; Ps.27:13-14; 31:24)