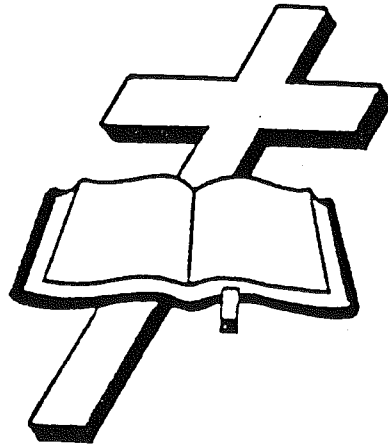


# THE SPIRIT OF COURAGE

(How God Prepared Joshua To Face Jordan Rivers And Jericho Walls)  
Joshua 1:1-9



## JOSHUA WAS PREPARED IN SECRET

- ◆ He Prayed And Believed
- ◆ He Waited With Patience
- ◆ He Was Anointed By The Spirit

**“Be Strong And Of A Good Courage” (Joshua 1:9)**

Bill Kirk

## **“The Spirit Of Courage”**

### **Message #1**

**Text:** Joshua 1:1-9

**Subject:** “The Spirit And The Attitude That God Will Honor”

#### **(Why Minister The Book Of Joshua?)**

1. The book of Joshua is a book of new beginnings for God’s people.
2. It’s a book that illustrates how we can say “good bye” to the old life and enter into the new life.
3. It’s a book that reveals to us practical insights:
  - ◆ How courage is born in your heart,
  - ◆ How perseverance will be rewarded by God,
  - ◆ How God gives confidence in the face of difficulties,
  - ◆ How the presence of God is our greatest assurance.

#### **(The Main Theme Of Joshua Is:)**

- ◆ **How to move forward and possess the inheritance God intends for you to possess.**

#### **(Joshua Was Commissioned To Do Three Things)**

- #1. Lead the people into the promise land.
- #2. Defeat the enemy that stood in the way.
- #3. Claim the inheritance that was promised by God.

#### **(Joshua Is A Type Of Christ)**

1. His name; “Joshua” means: “Jehovah Saves”
2. His purpose; was to cross over Jordan into enemy territory, and take back what belonged to God. (Jesus did this at Calvary).
3. His message to us; we have a race to run and a crown to gain!

#### **(In Other Words)**

- ◆ It is impossible to stand still in Christian life.
- ◆ We’re either going forward or going backward.
- ◆ And, God has ordained it that we march forward as people of faith.

#### **(Joshua Was A “Forward Marcher”)**

- ◆ In chapter 1-5, He dedicates the nation to God.
- ◆ In chapter 6-12, He defeats the enemies of God.
- ◆ In chapter 13-22, He claims the inheritance and divides the land.
- ◆ In chapter 23,24, He gives his final message.

#### **(And All The While)**

- ◆ Joshua wants to go from the wilderness to the place of rest.
- ◆ From Kadesh Barnea (unbelief) to Canaan (and victory).
- ◆ From outside the promise land, to inside the promise land (where faith is rewarded).

### **(Remember)**

- ◆ When Israel was in Egypt, the enemy was around them making life miserable.
- ◆ When Israel crossed the Red Sea, the enemy was behind them, in pursuit.
- ◆ But when Israel crosses the Jordan River (in ch. 3) the enemies are before them, and every enemy would be conquered by faith.

### **Questions?**

- ◆ Do you have any Egyptians in your life, people that are around you that make life miserable for you?
- ◆ Do you have any Jordan Rivers in front of you, things that seem impossible to cross over?
- ◆ Do you have any Jericho walls up against you, and you wonder how they'll ever come down?
- ◆ Do you have any battles, struggles, valleys or mountains and you need to hear what Joshua heard in chapter 1 from God?:

“Be strong and of a good courage”

“Be not afraid, neither be dismayed”

“As I was with Moses, so I will be with you”

### **(Introduction Of Chapter 1)**

- (v. 1) “Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass, that the Lord spoke unto Joshua, the son of Nun, Moses’ minister, saying”
- (v. 2) “Arise, go over this Jordan into the land which I have given you”

### **(Remember)**

- ◆ For 40 years, Moses had been Israel's leader in religious, domestic, judicial, military and civic matters.
  - ◆ Moses’s leadership ends and Joshua (his understudy and assistant for 40 years) will now fulfill what God had begun with Moses.
  - ◆ Moses wasn’t allowed to lead Israel into the Promised Land because of disobedience. (Numbers 27:12-14)
  - ◆ Moses asked God to give the people a leader, and God appointed Joshua. (Numbers 27:12-23)
  - ◆ Moses was awesome as he transferred the reins over to Joshua:
- #1. Moses publicly told the people that God would now use Joshua to defeat their enemies.
- #2. Moses encouraged Joshua to not be afraid. (Deut. 3:22)
- #3. Moses laid hands on Joshua and God imparted the spirit of wisdom for the task ahead. (Deut.34:9)

### **(What’s The Word To Joshua And To You Today?)**

“Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid neither be thou dismayed: For the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest”. (1:9)

### **(But Pastor)**

- ◆ How do I maintain a Joshua Spirit?
- ◆ How do I face my Jordan Rivers and Jericho Walls with faith and courage?
- ◆ How do I go from victory to victory in every spiritual battle?

- ◆ How do I possess what God intends for me to possess?
- ◆ How do I prepare myself so God can be strong on my behalf (and give me my mountains)?

**(This Morning)**  
**“Characteristics Of A Courageous Spirit”**

**Characteristic #1: Is Found In Exodus 17:8-13**

1. Joshua comes into focus for the first time here.
2. Amalek (Esau’s grandson) is the ruthless enemy of Israel.
3. Joshua followed Moses’ instructions and went to war.
4. Moses said he would intercede and pray for victory.
5. And Joshua’s first battle and victory build into him a courageous spirit.

**(What Did Joshua Learn?)**

- #1. That our battles are fought down here in the physical (in the valley).
- #2. But our battles are won or lost in the heavenlies.

**(Notice)**

- ◆ (v. 11) When Moses’ hands are up (Joshua prevails).
- ◆ (v. 11) When Moses’ hands are down (Joshua loses).

**(And Joshua Learns In The Very Beginning)**

- ◆ A courageous spirit is born in the place of prayer.
- ◆ Evil powers under satan’s direction were the actual forces behind the Amalekites.
- ◆ Joshua wasn’t contending with flesh and blood,
- ◆ He was involved in spiritual warfare.
- ◆ And He discovered the power of prayer in the life that marches forward in God.

**Question:** What is a courageous Spirit?

**Answer:** It is the man or woman who knows, that there is victory in prayer over the powers of the devil!

- ◆ You know that there is an unseen conflict behind the scenes.
- ◆ You know that it gets intense at times.
- ◆ But you know that in secret prayer, you align yourself with God who fights and conquers the powers of darkness

**Characteristic #2 Is Found In Exodus 24:13-16:**

- #1. This is the second time Joshua is mentioned.
- #2. Moses was called up to the top of Mt. Sinai to receive the law and the tabernacle blueprints.
- #3. Aaron, his sons, and the elders accompanied Moses and Joshua.
- #4. Then, Moses and Joshua went further toward Sinai.
- #5. As they approached the summit, a cloud covered it for six days.
- #6. On the 7th day, God called Moses to come up to His presence in the midst of the cloud.
- #7. And, Joshua was not allowed to enter the cloud of glory, but had to just wait for 40 days until his pastor returned:

- ◆ For 40 days (No Moses)
- ◆ For 40 days (All alone)
- ◆ For 40 days (Just waiting and on hold)
- ◆ For 40 days (Faithful, hidden, no limelight, no recognition, no sharing in the glory cloud).

**Question:** What keeps an assistant pastor faithful, a church member faithful, a man or woman faithful during the dull and unknown season?

**Answer:** Characteristic #2 (I call it) "A willingness to serve God and care less who gets the credit".

**Characteristic #3 Is Found In Exodus 33:11:**

- #1. In Exodus 32, Moses cleaned house because of idol worship at the golden calf.
- #2. Moses was angry and ground the calf to powder, cast the powder into the water, and made the people drink it.
- #3. Moses then took the tabernacle (or tent of God's presence) and set it up outside the camp.
- #4. Up till this time, the center of worship was easily accessible to everyone.
- #5. But now, the removal of the tent to the outside of the camp, put the people to a test:
  - ◆ Who really and truly wants to worship God?
  - ◆ Who is really willing to separate themselves from the camp and pay the price?
- #6. Exodus 33:11 reveals, that following a season of worship, Moses returned to the camp.

**(But What Did Joshua Do?)**

(v. 11) "Joshua departed not out of the tabernacle". **(Why Not?)**

- ◆ So he could fellowship, intercede and continue to worship.

**(It's Part Of A Courageous Spirit)**

**What Is It?**

"A willingness to give up something temporary, for something eternal.

"A willingness to sacrifice the immediate, for intimacy with God.

"A willingness to narrow my interest to seek the face of God".

**Characteristic #4 Is Found In Numbers 14:6-9:**

- #1. In Numbers 13, God sent out 12 spies to scope the land.
- #2. When the spies returned, 10 carried an evil report (full of doubt and unbelief).
- #3. Numbers 13:30 "Caleb says we can possess it".
- #4. Numbers 13:31 The other spies say, we can't go up".
  - (v. 31) "They are stronger than we are".
  - (v. 32) "They're too big to conquer.
  - (v. 33) "We're like grasshoppers in our own sight".

**Question:** What was Joshua's response and report?

**Answer:** Numbers 14:8 "The Lord will bring us in".

(v. 9) "They are bread for us to take". **"The Lord is with us, fear not"**.

- ◆ 10 spies focus on their limitations.
- ◆ 10 spies murmur, complain and spread evil reports.
- ◆ 10 spies see their need (but not God).
- ◆ 10 spies poison the whole congregation.

## (Results?)

- ◆ A whole generation would die in the wilderness.
- ◆ A whole generation would spend 40 years wandering.
- ◆ Joshua and Caleb would be the only adults who crossed the Red Sea and crossed over Jordan into the Promise Land of Canaan.

### (But What Did Joshua Say In V. 9?)

- ◆ “The Lord is with us, fear not”

**Question:** What is a courageous spirit?

- Answer:**
- ◆ Believing that God is bigger than your problems.
  - ◆ Seeing God’s supply in the face of your need!!!
  - ◆ Knowing that God will do what God said He will do.

**Question:** Are you facing any giants today?

**Question:** Has the devil been taunting you; tempting you to murmur or complain?

**Question:** Are you facing a mountain that looks too high to climb?

**Question:** Do you need a job or a financial miracle?

**Question:** Has the doctor said you’re ill and you need the gift of healing?

**Question:** Is there an impass or roadblock in your relationship with your husband or wife.

**Question:** Do your hurdles and obstacles look like giants and you feel like a grasshopper?

### (Then Pray For A Joshua Spirit)

And believe God, let faith arise, and see that God is bigger than your problems and challenges and anything that would intimidate you.

### Characteristic #5 Is Found In Numbers 27:15-23:

- #1. This is the next event in Joshua’s life (his appointment as Moses’ successor).
  - #2. Moses had prayed for the right person to follow him.
  - #3. Here is where many pulpit committees panic, where carnal opinions are voiced, where politicking begins.
- ◆ “Who is the most gifted?”
  - ◆ “Who is the most talented?”
  - ◆ “Who has personality and charisma?”

**Question:** What was God looking for?

**Answer:** (v. 18) “Take thee Joshua, a man in whom is the Spirit of God, and lay thine hand upon him”.

**Question:** What is it that gives you a spirit of courage to face whatever you face?

- ◆ Being continually filled with the Spirit of God.
- ◆ Obedient to the initial promptings of the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Separating yourself from anything that would grieve the Holy Spirit in your life.

### Characteristic #6 Is Found In Numbers 34:16, 17:

- #1. Joshua is mentioned next as one of the men to divide the land for the various tribes.
- #2. This was one of those menial, detailed jobs to administrate.
- #3. I call it one of those behind the scenes, not much glory and recognition details.
- #4. But this appointment by God was to encourage and prepare Joshua for greater responsibility.

### (What Is This Detail?)

- ◆ It's the characteristic of servanthood.
- ◆ A willingness to advance others at the expense of yourself.
- ◆ A humble and meek spirit that finds a need and meets that need.
- ◆ Counting it a privilege to be faithful to God.
- ◆ Knowing that there is no little job in the kingdom when it is done for God.

### Characteristic #7 Is Found In Deuteronomy 31:7,8

- #1. This is the final charge before taking over the responsibility of leadership in Deut. 34:9
- #2. It's a remarkable promise and command in front of all the people:

“Be strong and of a good courage”

“You and the people are going into the land”

### (How Can We Be Sure?)

(v. 8) The Lord had good news for then and now:

- ◆ “I'm going before you”     ◆ “I'm going with you”     ◆ “I'll not fail you”
- ◆ “I'll not forsake you”     ◆ “Fear not, neither be dismayed”

(The Word “Dismayed” KHAW-THATH means:)

1. To be confused
2. To be beaten down
3. To break down
4. To be discouraged

### (Characteristic #7 Is:)

- ◆ An Assurance From God For Your Heart.
- ◆ It is God's covenant with you and me.
- ◆ It produces a spirit of courage in your heart.

### (What Is It?)

Knowing that the one who has saved you, is the one who will keep you!

### (Want A Spirit Of Courage?)

- #1. Know that your battles are won in the secret place.
- #2. Serve and care less who gets the credit.
- #3. Believe that God is bigger than your problems.
- #4. Give up the temporary to inherit the eternal.
- #5. Be filled with the Holy Spirit - daily.
- #6. Advance others at the expense of yourself.
- #7. Know that the One who has saved you, is the One who will keep you!!

AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor