

Joshua, Be strong and Courageous

Wk 2 Overcoming Obstacles

Deut 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Stress is the recognition that there is an obstacle to overcome

God commands us to be Strong and Courageous

Strength and Courage are developed traits

When change comes, devise a plan for success

Best way to overcome an obstacle is to follow the Lord

Joshua 3: 1-5 Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. 2After three days the officers went throughout the camp, 3giving orders to the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. 4Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it." 5Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you."

Stop camping in a temporary position

You can only experience your future position when you follow God

He will do amazing things through you

(V6-7) Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people." So they took it up and went ahead of them. 7And the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses

When God is before you, he will magnify you

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He made you MAGNIFICENT

(V 8-13) Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: ‘When you reach the edge of the Jordan’s waters, go and stand in the river.’”

9Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God. 10This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. 11See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. 12Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. 13And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the Lord—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.”

What can you do because you are magnificent?

(V 14-16) So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. 15Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, 16the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away,

Things may be stacked against you, God will lead you through

You have to confront the obstacle in order to overcome it

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