



COURAGE:

STEPPING OUT IN PERSEVERING STRENGTH

What is “courage”?

Defined: “mental or moral **strength** to venture, **persevere**, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty; it implies **firmness** of **mind** and **will** in the face of danger or extreme difficulty”

COURAGE

- What contributes to lack of courage?
 - Fear
 - Failure
 - Unknown
 - Bad experiences
 - Imaginations gone amuck
 - Lack of hope
 - Weakened faith or trust
 - Loss of control
 - Selfishness

COURAGE

1 After the death of Moses the Lord's servant, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant. He said, 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them. 3 I promise you what I promised Moses: 'Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you—4 from the Negev wilderness in the south to the Lebanon mountains in the north, from the Euphrates River in the east to the Mediterranean Sea in the west, including all the land of the Hittites.' 5 No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you.

COURAGE

6 “Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. 7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. 8 Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. 9 This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

[Josh. 1:1-9]



COURAGE

What enables us to step out in persevering strength?

- 1) God reminded Joshua
of His faithfulness to keep all his promises**
- 2) God commanded Joshua
to meditate on his Word**
- 3) God assured Joshua
He would be personally present**

What enables us to step out in persevering strength?

- ➔ 1) God's faithfulness in keeping all of his promises

The Promise-Maker is a Promise-Keeper!

v. 2 – 4

- *You must lead my people*
 - *I promise you what I promised Moses*
 - *Everywhere you go, you will be on land I have given to you*
 - *No one will be able to stand their ground against you*
 - *I will not fail you or abandon you*



COURAGE



At least 4 times in this first chapter, Joshua was told to be strong and (very) courageous!

“His faithful promises are your armor and protection” Ps. 91:4

COURAGE

God said,
“BE STRONG AND (VERY) COURAGEOUS”!

SUGGESTION for consideration:

We are encouraged to “BE it”, [to “TAKE it”]!!

God wants us to BE people of courage SO THAT,
he can prove himself to us!!

Mmm... does this mean we have a choice?!!

What helps?

There is the call in Scripture to “look back” and “remember”!

Courage comes from the evidence / experience of what God has done

Note Joshua 21:45

All of the good promises that the Lord had given Israel came true

Note Joshua 23:14

Deep in your hearts you know that every promise of the Lord your God has come true. Not a single one has failed!

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a dark red arrow pointing to the right at the top. Below it, several thin, curved lines in shades of green and brown sweep upwards and to the right, creating a sense of movement and depth.

COURAGE

***The Promise-Maker
is a
Promise-Keeper!***

What enables us to step out in persevering strength?

2) Obeying God's command to meditate on His Word

***“This book will keep you from sin,
or
sin will keep you from this book”***

-- D L Moody

What enables us to step out in persevering strength?

2) Obeying God's command to meditate on His Word

❖ It brings success--

Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.

-- Josh. 1:8

What enables us to step out in persevering strength?

2) Obeying God's command to meditate on His Word

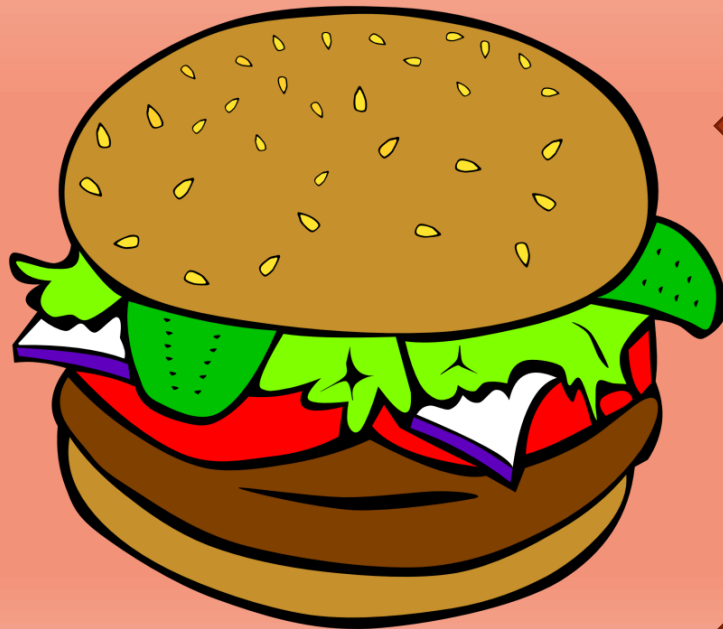
"If you carefully obey the laws and regulations that the Lord gave to Israel through Moses, you will be successful. Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid or lose heart."

-- 1 Chronicles 22:13

What enables us to step out in persevering strength?

2) Obeying God's command to meditate on His Word

❖ It influences perspective--



← WORD

← COURAGE

← WORD

What enables us to step out in persevering strength?

2) Obeying God's command to meditate on His Word

❖ It indicates "friendship" with the Lord--

Friendship with the Lord is reserved for those who fear him. With them he shares the secrets of his covenant.

-- Ps. 25:14

What enables us to step out in persevering strength?

2) Obeying God's command to meditate on His Word

❖ *It gives strength --*

Oh the joy of those who delight in doing everything the Lord wants; day and night they think about his law...They are like trees planted along the riverbank...their leaves never wither, and in all they do, they prosper

-- Ps. 1:1-3



COURAGE



What enables us to step out in persevering strength?

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- 3) **God assured Joshua He would be personally present**

What enables us to step out in persevering strength?

**3) God assured Joshua
He would be personally present**

*I command you, be strong and courageous!
Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord
your God is with you wherever you go.*

-- Josh. 1:9

What enables us to step out in persevering strength?

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He would be personally present

PRACTICING THE PRESENCE OF JESUS!

What enables us to step out in persevering strength?

**3) God assured Joshua
He would be personally present**

“When we acknowledge the presence of God in our lives, as Shepherd and Guide, we see everything around us in a different light. We know that God is here not elsewhere.”
(Isabel Anders ‘Walking with the Shepherd’)

What enables us to step out in persevering strength?

**3) God assured Joshua
He would be personally present**

“Be strong and courageous! Don’t be afraid...for there is a power far greater on our side! He may have a great army, but they are just men. We have the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles for us.” These words greatly encouraged the people.’

-- 2 Chron. 32:7-8

What enables us to step out in persevering strength?

3) God assured Joshua He would be personally present

*“Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: **I am with you always**, even to the end of the age.”*

-- Jesus



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A male lion with a large, light-colored mane is lying on the ground in a savanna setting. The lion is looking directly at the camera with a calm expression. The background consists of green grass and some small trees.

Do not be afraid!

Be a person of courage!

I am with you, always!

--The Lion of Judah!