

Move Forward | Joshua 1:1-9 | Sermon Guide

“Warning: This Changes Everything” - When we encounter the God who sends and guides everything changes.

Who is Joshua? - One of 12 people appointed by Moses to spy out the promised land. Only Caleb and himself believed that if they trusted God, they would take the land and be victorious. For their lack of faith and courage, the people of Israel were left to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. 40 years pass and we reach this account...

Read Joshua 1:1-9 - What obstacles might we face when we decide to obey the God who changes everything?

1. DAYS GONE BY (vv1-2a).

It is hard to live up to the past. It was time to take the role of leadership that once belonged to Moses. It was now his job, but how could he possibly fill those sandals and would the people follow him? For Joshua, Moses was dead, but God’s purpose was very much alive. *“God buries His workmen, but His work goes on.”*

2. DIMENSIONS (vv2b-5).

God gives to Joshua the same view that He had given Moses of the land saying it is yours for the taking. Sometimes, the tasks seem too big. We don’t know if Joshua hesitated at this point, but we would not blame him if he did. They were going to be able to do this because God was with them.

When God is with you, it is enough!

3. DEFICIENCIES (v6a).

Be strong... Why is it that the Lord tells us to be strong? I think it’s simply because we can too easily lose our resolve in the face of the enemy. If he was to be a successful leader, Joshua needed to possess an absolute resolve. Even though God tells Joshua to be strong, the secret of his success was not his strength, but in the fact that he would be dependent on the Lord’s strength.

4. DISTRESSES (v6).

I believe God tells us to be courageous because we get scared a lot. We fear the process and the consequences. And as a result fear can paralyse us. Whether we feel apprehensive, anxious, scared or petrified, God calls on us to have courage. We will move forward because God has promised to be with us.

5. DISTRACTIONS (v7).

It is easy to wander from the main thing. The description that is given here to Joshua is really a moral one. He was not to get off track. We must remember this if we are to move forward as God calls. The world offers plenty of distractions in terms of our possessions and our desires.

6. DELINQUENCIES (v8-9).

This advice here is Simply, Joshua, don’t be caught being stupid. His mind was to be exercised by God’s Word through continual meditation to understand its spiritual depth and be able to follow it meticulously. As a result, he would know God better. If we are to possess the courage to move forward, we must not rely on our own wisdom. Instead, we must study the Word in the realisation that if we do not study God’s Word, every challenge that comes our way will seem impossible.

Final Thoughts...

- 1. There should never be discussion about whether to follow God’s will or not.**
- 2. When God promises His Presence, it is always enough.**