

Memory Verse

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

GRACELIFE  CHURCH

**CONQUERING
FEAR
JOSHUA 1:1-9**

A. Defining Fear

One definition of fear as *the **feeling** of anxiety because of the presence, or imminence of danger*. It may not always be something that is, but something we **think** will bring us into danger, even if it is not real. There can be a *benefit of fear*. It can **keep us from danger**. We **should** be afraid of some things, though not to the extent where we are paralyzed every moment.

Joshua 1:1-9 - After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, 2"Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. 3Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. 4From

the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. 5No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. 6Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land

that I swore to their fathers to give them.
7Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. 8This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may

be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. 9Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

B. 1:1-4, 6 - Remember God's Promises

Verse 1 gives the context and transition from *Deuteronomy* to *Joshua*, who wrote this book. In *verse 2* God states - "Moses My servant is dead." Then God tells them to get up, go over, and move on. God wants His people to cross the Jordan River to the Land He is *giving* them. ***God is at work, fulfilling His word!***

B. 1:1-4, 6 - Remember God's Promises

God reminds Joshua they were *going into the Land He gave to them*. He promised the Land in the *Abrahamic Covenant* hundreds of years prior to Joshua and the nation entering it! This probably gave Joshua confidence to *follow through with what God had said*. In essence and in part, God told Joshua to obey and *go into the Land*, because it has been given to them by covenant...

B. 1:1-4, 6 - Remember God's Promises

Verses 3-4 are a broad-brush stroke or *boundaries of Numbers 34*, which give more details.

In verse 6, God first tells Joshua to - *Be strong and courageous...* - Similar meanings in the Hebrew. God is saying the same thing 2 times for emphasis. God is giving strength to Joshua from His *verbal word*.

B. 1:1-4, 6 - Remember God's Promises

...you shall cause the people to inherit the Land I promised to their fathers to give them
- Joshua was going into pagan territory. The Canaanites in the Promised Land sacrificed their kids, were full of venereal diseases and more. Joshua was fulfilling God's promises to their forefathers, and he needed the **courage** to follow through with his responsibility.

Hebrews 13:5-6 - Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” 6So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”

B. 1:1-4, 6 - Remember God's Promises

God tells *us to obey Him*, in response to His grace and His love, **not out of Law!** If we obey Him, it doesn't mean everything is going to be easy, though He *still wants to bless us in His way*. ***There are times when the Lord will use what was written in the Old Testament to help us and give us direction, comfort and confirmation.***

John 3:16 – For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him, will not perish, but have eternal life.

Hebrews 13:5-6 - 6b ...The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Philippians 4:19 - And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. – stated within the context of *giving*.

Philippians 4:4-7 - Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

C. 1:5, 9 - Remember God's Presence

God began with reality, then proclaimed His promises and challenges to Joshua and the nation. God also speaks to *Joshua* about His presence. In verse 5 He said that, "*No man shall stand before you all the days of your life.*" - No one will be able to defeat you. You will defeat all your enemies, **qualified** by his and the nations obedience to the Law.

C. 1:5, 9 - Remember God's Presence

Then God said, "*Just as I was with Moses, I will be with you.*" - The **presence of God** with the **promises of God** gave Joshua strength to overcome obstacles in his way. God would speak to, lead, guide and show Joshua the next steps on his journey. God was **with Moses** to the end and He was going to be **with Joshua** to the end. - *I will not leave you or forsake you.*

C. 1:5, 9 - Remember God's Presence

Verse 9 - God commanded him - God commanded Joshua to... Be strong and courageous - How many times does God say this? **3 times!**

Then He says... *Do not be frightened or dismayed...* - This is the **fourth time**, stated differently.

C. 1:5, 9 - Remember God's Presence

Moses rescued the nation, was God's man to initiate the 10 plagues, gave them the Law, led them for 40 years in the wilderness, led them to build the Tabernacle, helped them with their problems, was used by God to provide for the people and *more*. **He was bigger than life!** Then his assistant or understudy, Joshua was to take the lead.

D. 1:7-8 - Remember God's Providence

God's providence is Him using everything together to bring about His plan. He uses the pandemic, loss of jobs, death of a loved one, prayers of people, the "good" and evil that people do, the weather, and more to bring about His plan. In verses 7-8 God gave Joshua specific things to do. *In God's providence, He used **all things** to bring His people into the Promised Land.*

D. 1:7-8 - Remember God's Providence

Verse 7 - ...be strong and very courageous... -

Again, God says this **2 times** for emphasis and then adds the word "very." It's going to take all Joshua has and it will test his faith, his leadership skills, and more.

- be careful to do all according to the Law of Moses... do not turn from it to the right or left

*- **Obey** what God said.*

D. 1:7-8 - Remember God's Providence

We see the repetition of 3 things: **Promises** of God, **Presence** of God, and **Personal obedience**. These lead to the Power of God in *one's life*. I **did not put obedience** in the bullet points, but it is a factor in overcoming fear. If you *say you are a Christian* and are living a life that is not honoring to God, you cannot have victory over fear!

D. 1:7-8 - Remember God's Providence

Verse 8 God says - *Talk about the word, meditate or think often on it and he will be successful.* - Tell your kids, your neighbors, friends, family, enemies and more about the **word**. *Ponder it, chew on it, pray it and pray about it, asking for insight and illumination about its meaning and application in life.*