

# FORTITUDE TO ADVANCE GOD'S MISSION

Part 3 of Forward: Leadership Lessons from Joshua. Joshua 1:1-9.  
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. June 2, 2024.

## THE CONTEXT OF THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

**The people of Israel have reached the border of Canaan.**

- They are moving ahead without Moses.
- Leadership has shifted to Joshua.

**Joshua Chapter One contains the key to successful leadership.**

- The leadership transition.

After the death of Moses the LORD's servant, the LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses's assistant: 2 "Moses my servant is dead.

- The guarantee of success.

Now you and all the people prepare to cross over the Jordan to the land I am giving the Israelites. 3 I have given you every place where the sole of your foot treads, just as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will be from the wilderness and Lebanon to the great river, the Euphrates River — all the land of the Hittites — and west to the Mediterranean Sea. 5a No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live.

- The promise of God's presence.

5b I will be with you, just as I was with Moses. I will not leave you or abandon you.

- The need and reason for courageous leadership.

6 "**Be strong and courageous**, for you will distribute the land I swore to their ancestors to give them as an inheritance. 7 Above all, **be strong and very courageous** to observe carefully the whole instruction my servant Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right or the left, so that you will have

success wherever you go. 8 This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do. 9 Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? **Do not be afraid or discouraged**, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

## **ADVANCING GOD'S MISSION**

**Joshua's mission was to conquer Canaan.**

- So Israel would become a light to the nations.

**The church's mission is to make disciples of all nations.**

- So the nations will follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

**The key to success in both eras is ...**

- Great God, great courage.

## **GREAT GOD**

**He is the God of now - Joshua 1:1.**

- Moses died, but God raised up Joshua.
- God is working in the here and now.

**He is the God of promise and presence - Joshua 1:2-5.**

- The Lord reminded Joshua:

Joshua 1:3 (CSB) I have given you every place where the sole of your foot treads, just as I promised Moses.

Joshua 1:5(CSB) I will be with you, just as I was with Moses. I will not leave you or abandon you.

- Jesus promised us his presence and power: Matthew 28:20.

## **He is the God of the Book - Joshua 1:6-9.**

- The “book of instruction” is probably Deuteronomy.
- Christian leaders succeed to the extent that they faithfully follow the Book - the Bible.

## **DEFINING GREAT COURAGE**

**Great courage is doing the right thing, at the right time, in the right way.**

- Right thing: Advance God’s mission. Lead people to make disciples.
- Right time: Now!
- Right way: In the way of Christ, by the power of his Spirit.

**How can Christian leaders find great courage?**

- Only one way: Get to know the great God. Get gripped by God’s greatness.
- Spend time with the Lord, study him, grow in him.

## **IT’S TIME TO RESPOND**

**Praise the great God.**

- See Psalms 95:1-3 (CSB) ... 3 For the LORD is a great God...

**Surrender to the great God.**

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, I come before You in humility and awe. I consecrate myself to you and to your service. I will do whatever you call me to do, whenever and wherever you call me to do it. I acknowledge that all authority comes from you alone. Any leadership or influence I have is by your appointment and for your glory. Purify my heart and motives. Use me, Lord, as your vessel. I surrender my ambitions to your vision and mission. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

# SMALL GROUPS GUIDE

## DIVE IN

- Review Peter's study guide. What were the highlights and key insights?
- What questions do you have about these insights? What answers can members of the group provide?
- Put yourself in Joshua's shoes? What might he have been thinking during the leadership transition? What goes through your mind at the prospect of leading some home (family, a small group, a ministry, an outreach, etc.)?
- How might the Bible be a powerful resource to prepare, form, direct, and encourage Christian leaders? Be specific. Identify key passages or principles. Use personal illustrations.
- What has helped you find the courage to do the right things, at the right time, in the right way in your life and leadership?.
- What can you and your group do to advance God's mission to make disciples of all nations?

## PRAY TOGETHER

- Pray for the Lord to raise up men and women with leadership courage to advance his mission in our generation.
- Pray for national spiritual awakening in the USA and spiritual revival at the Cornerstone.
- Pray for the Cornerstone - people, leaders, health, and faithfulness.
- Pray for our families, communities, and nation.