

Words of Life

(January 24, 2007)

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Joshua had received his instructions from the Lord. He was to assume role of leader after Moses had died and was to lead the people into the promised land. Obeying God in this monumental task would require strength and courage. It is interesting that Joshua would have been an old man at this point in time. He could have contested God's command and said that he no longer had the strength, but to do so would have missed the point entirely. The source of Joshua's strength and courage was not with him or his military prowess, or his physical strength, but was anchored in his faith, trust and obedience to God.

As we step out in obedience to God's instructions to us it requires strength and courage. Sometimes God asks us to do something that looks to be impossible or impractical. It doesn't make sense to us, to our family or to our colleagues. It probably doesn't make sense to many others within the body of Christ. It is easy for us to become weighted down by cultural or social chains that bind us. Chains that suggest we must be healthy, or financially secure, or have our future planned out, or know the vision for the next 10 years. When in reality we know nothing of the future. However, to follow God's command, especially when it requires we lay aside these weights, is hard on us physically and intellectually. It requires strength and courage.

You may be in a place today that requires strength and courage to carry on. The path ahead may not look so rosy. You may be fearful about your future. You may be thinking.....God I have followed You so far, but I'm not sure I can follow you down this path. If you are in that place I want to share a few verses with you that may be of help. Psalm 139:16 says the days were fashioned for you, therefore you must accept the place God has you in today. Isaiah 41:10 and Philippians 4:13 tell you that God Himself will be your strength. Hebrews 12:1-3 tells you the way to have endurance. Philippians 3:13 tells you not to look back but to press forward. Colossians 3:2 tells you to set you mind upon things above, not things of the earth. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 tells you to pray without ceasing. And John 14:21 tells you that as you obey, Jesus will make more of Himself known to you. Thus the will of God is completed in your life. Not that you accomplish more for Him, but that you get to know (experience) Him more and in doing so, to experience perfect peace, for He is our peace (Ephesians 2:14).

I encourage you to look up these verses and meditate upon them and upon the vast majesty, power and strength of our God. As you do, the path ahead, and the corresponding fears begin to loose their grip and a freedom to carry on with strength and courage ensues.

I trust these verses will be an encouragement to you today.....they were to me.

*Blessings!
Pastor Ted.*

*The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.
John 6:63*