

D. L. Nicely Ministries
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Secret place
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Issue 6...God's Promise of Courage

Courage is something that is lacking today in this modern society. We have become a people of compromise and throw in the towel at the first sign of resistance. This wasn't so in bible times and certainly wasn't so with the bible character named Joshua. Remember Joshua he was one of the twelve spies that Moses sent to spy out the Promised Land for forty days before the attack. Remember that he was only one of two to bring back a good report that they could surely conquer the Promised Land with God's assistance. Remember he was the one that Moses chose to lead Israel into battle as He went to the mountain top and raised his staff toward heaven. He was also the only one chosen by God to go on the mountain with Moses as Moses conversed with God to receive the Ten Commandments. You see I believe that God recognized something in Joshua that very few people possess. Courage. Look at what the source of Joshua's courage is in the book that bears his name.

Joshua 1:7 (NKJV) ⁷Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

Just as Joshua's courage rested in the Lord we too can rest in that promise. No matter what we face God will go with us. Let's take a little bit of time and break down the promise so we can better face the battles we face in our daily lives.

1—Godly courage grows from God's character.... God instructed Joshua to be strong and courageous. Just like a coach on the sidelines does when he sees his players getting discouraged and thinking about quitting. God's exhortation to lead the people into the Promised Land was direct and to the point. Give them the land that I swore to their fathers as an inheritance. You see God's nature is that he will not go back on his promises and that's that. Just like us when we know that what we are doing for God is a sealed promise from him we know that we can fight knowing that we will not fail. Do you know that even though you aren't fighting a natural battle in the Promised Land with and sword and a spear God has given you an incredible promise of victory as well over your battles?

2 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

Wow! Now that's what I call a promise!

2—Our courage can expand as God guides....

Maybe Joshua's courage was wavering or maybe he didn't want to do the job anymore, whatever the reason—once again God gives us the same promise.

Joshua 1:9 (NKJV) ⁹Have 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."

In my high school years I dreamed of playing for a championship football team. My goal was never reached in that we didn't have the muscle or natural talent to be a conference winner. We were by far a weaker team that most of the teams in our conference only having about a total of 26 players on the whole team. And most of us going both ways on both offense and defense. But what I will say is we had heart. My graduating class 1977

was a class that what we lacked in talent we made up for in heart. Our coach for my senior year believed in physical conditioning. He ran us to till legs fell off and trained us to take the heart we had a use it on the football field. He preached that we could dig down deep inside and accomplish any goal that we wanted to do. And guess what with that little small team of small players we secured the most wins of any football team the school had ever had. With 8 victories and only 2 losses. But the amazing thing about our victories was that 5 of the 8 came from 4th quarter rallies from behind. Even as many as three touchdowns down and to win the game. Our couch did to us what God did for Joshua when he comforted him into knowing that he couldn't fail as long as he went forward. When you are tempted to look at the scoreboard and see where you are at- just go to the word and see where God wants you. Don't look to the right or left. Just stay focused and follow the playbook for your life "the bible."

3—Courage multiplies with God's presence...

God also said don't be dismayed! Now I'm sure you have faced some difficult situations in your life. When you face those situations isn't it great to see people that you know standing alongside you. That's what God is doing for Joshua. He's saying I know you can't see me, but I'm here either way and I am not going anywhere. I believe this was Joshua's secret to winning. And it should be ours as well.

If your courage has been waiving these days or you may feel a little bit overwhelmed by the current state of our nation, fear not for God is with us. Employ him to help you fight your battles and be strong and courageous.

Here's some things you can do to encourage yourself to stay in the fight till the end.

- Read your bible every chance you get and make sure that you are a practitioner of the principles that you learn. It truly is your guidebook through this life.
- Remember that God is not looking for physical soldiers to fight natural battles but instead he's looking for people who possess the courage to stand up for Christ in public or even at home for that matter. He's looking for people to model godly behavior and fulfill the proper roles in their family.
- He wants fathers who will guide their families out of worldliness and into the land of godliness.
- Mom, why won't you speak up for morality and your child's school
- He wants soldiers that will live consistent lives according to the scriptures and be doers of the word and not hearers only.

Remember this; Since God is with us and we are with God, we have nothing to fear.