

not for others | This is the way | Progeny Road

PROMISED LAND

HABITS THAT BUILD SUCCESS

Here We Come!

January 7, 2024 Message Notes

*TEXT: "This is my command - be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:9*

Do you want to know what living **VERY** strong and courageous looks like in the face of hardship?



NOTES

“Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”
2 Corinthians 5:17

When you hear the words: “Get ready,” what comes to your mind?

“Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them.” Joshua 1:2

A new season dawned - not of desperation, but of hope, anticipation, and a promise fulfilled!

- God speaks to Joshua and says, ‘get ready.’ vv. 1-9
- Joshua speaks to the people and says, ‘get ready.’ vv. 10-15
- The people respond to Joshua, saying: ‘we’re ready.’ vv. 16-18



God made a promise to Joshua and then gave him 3 commands, each one beginning with the phrase, ‘*be strong and courageous.*’

These have the power to *shape our behaviors* into 4 lifelong faithful habits that build for victory.

“I promise you what I promised Moses: ‘wherever you set your foot, you will be on land I have given you... No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you.’” Joshua 1:3

HABIT 1: Craft Your Character

Character defines your moral and spiritual virtue. It’s your operating system.

“Whatever is in your heart determines what you say.”
Matthew 12:34

When life squeezes you, what comes out? Forgiveness and patience, or vitriol and bitterness?



God didn't just magically give Joshua the character he needed to lead. Instead, Joshua intentionally formed his character over decades.

“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.”

Romans 5:3-4

How do we build character?

“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” Psalm 119:11

“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” John 11:25-26

When life squeezes us, we want God's word to come out of us, including the fruits of his Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.



“Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them.” Joshua 1:6

God chose Joshua and He has intentionally chosen you to advance his mission in your part of our world.

HABIT 2: Cultivate your calling.

“Lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.” Ephesians 4:1

Each one of us has been called by God to build for his kingdom on earth as in heaven.

What is your part in this mission, and what are you doing to equip yourself to grow in your calling?

Every Christ follower has been called and commanded to EDGE:

1. Evangelism - to help others find Jesus
2. Discipleship - to help others follow Jesus by learning his ways
3. Generosity - to freely share your time, talents, and treasures



4. Empowerment - to live and lead freely in all that you do by the power of Christ's Spirit alive in you!

Reminders of our character and calling:

- I am a child of God. I belong to my Father. Galatians 3:26
- I am loved and forgiven. Ephesians 1:4
- I am called to lead. Ephesians 4:1
- I will not fear. Isaiah 41:10
- I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” Joshua 1:7–8

HABIT 3: Read the Bible daily.

“The instructions of the Lord are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.” Psalm 19:7



“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16–17

God instructed Joshua to keep the law on his lips. Keep it as close as the sound of your voice.

“The ancient art of reading aloud has a number of benefits for adults, from helping improve our memories and understanding complex texts, to strengthening emotional bonds between people.” 2020 BBC article: *Why You Should Read This Out Loud*

If you want to know the heartbeat of God, including every promise he ever made to you... if you want to know how to overcome hardship... if you want to know God’s best for your life... then read the Bible.

“I just believe that God’s Word is exactly that: It’s the Word of God and I treat it as the playbook for life. You know, we have a playbook on the football field as our lifeline to our success on the field. And I believe that



God's Word is a lifeline to my success in life and my ability to relate well to others and for life to work well as a husband, a parent, and a friend." Kirk Cousins – October 2021 *Faith and Goal* podcast

Those who read the Bible a little bit every day experience less anxiety, less doubt, less fear and more contentment, more understanding about God, and more courage to live life to the full.

First light, first thought. Seek first the kingdom of God. Begin each day with a few minutes in God's Word.

Christ Journey YouVersion Bible app plan - [Bible in a Year](#)

"All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each one of them." John 14:23

How can we ever experience the fullness of God's love and home with us unless we read his Word?

Don't listen to the enemy's whisper when he says that you won't be able to understand it. That's a lie.



NIV Life Application Study Bible

“This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 NLT

How is it we can live our lives on the regular without ever experiencing God with us?

Is it because God left us? Or....

Is it because we gave our attention, our worship to something else?

Habit 4: Pray continuously.

“Never stop praying.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Prayer isn't something you do. It is who you are.

God doesn't measure the length or the kind of words that you use. Rather, God cares about the weight of your prayer.

Prayer opens our heart to see that the Lord our God is indeed with us wherever we go.



As you go about your day, think about God, especially in difficult moments.

Whenever you read the Bible, take a few minutes afterward and pray.

Some people keep a daily journal of their prayers with a sentence or two that witness how God answers their prayers over time.

“All of God’s promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding ‘Yes!’ And through Christ, our ‘Amen’ (which means ‘Yes’) ascends to God for his glory.”

2 Corinthians 1:20

Are you ready? What will you choose?

Your heart and soul are longing for more, but that requires you to take the harder way and build these 4 habits into your life.

Then when life’s challenges come, and they always do, your life will be as bright as the promises of God!

