**“Be Strong and Courageous”**

*Joshua 1:1-9*

**Introduction**

* Moses was a righteous servant of the Lord and a great leader of Israel.
* He was mourned greatly at his death (Deuteronomy 34:8).
* Joshua had a big responsibility set on his shoulders. Also physical confrontations to expect.
* Like Joshua’s responsibility, our responsibility as Christians requires Strength and Courage.

1. Be Strong

* Strong – *châzaq* – to fasten upon. (v. 7)
  + (v. 8) – “not depart from your mouth” (his speech would not be without the teaching and vernacular of the law) Why? Because he would meditate on it (Psalm 1; Philippians 4:8).

1. “Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left” (v. 7). (strictly follow)

* A transformation occurs – Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:20-24
  + Through time with the word – 1 Timothy 4:15
* Complete obedience to the word – 1 Thessalonians 5:22; Romans 12:9; 3 John 11

1. While teaching others.

* Do not make compromises – 2 Timothy 4:2; Acts 20:20-21, 27
* Strength is saying what needs to be said – Nathan (2 Samuel 12:7); Peter (Acts 2:36); Stephen (Acts 7:51-53)

*Such acts of strength require courage…*

1. Be Courageous

* Courageous – *'âmats* – to be alert/aware.
* Be aware that God is for us. (if we are steadfast in His commands) (Joshua 1:7-8 – show that prospering and success is conditional upon obedience.)
  + Courage in suffering for Christ – Romans 8:18, 28, 31-39
  + Christ has won (we can be confident and courageous knowing that if we are on His side we will win too) – John 16:33; 2 Timothy 1:12 (able to keep Paul’s life and follow up on promise); 1 John 5:4-5; Revelation 3:7-12

1. Be Strong and Courageous (examples)

* David (facing Goliath) – 1 Samuel 17:45
* Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego (disobeying the King) – Daniel 3:16-18
* Daniel (praying while under statute to not pray) – Daniel 6:10, 22
* Nathan, Peter, Stephen (mentioned before).

**Conclusion**

* We, like Joshua, must “be strong and courageous!”
* We need to stand firm in the word.
* We need to have confidence that God will reward and deliver us.