

A New Beginning

Read: Joshua 1:1-9

Main Idea: God calls us to embrace new beginnings with courage, trusting in His promises and presence as we move forward.

Key Verses: “Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” (**Joshua 1:9**)

Key Principles

- When God closes one chapter of our lives, we must trust Him enough to step boldly into the next rather than staying paralyzed by what we have lost.
- Our confidence for the task God has given us rests not on our ability or resources but on the God who stands beside us and promises never to leave us.
- Courage is not the absence of fear but the decision to obey God because we believe His presence and promises are greater than what we are facing.
- Spiritual success is never measured by wealth or ease but by faithful obedience to God's Word in whatever assignment He places before us.
- The Word of God must shape our daily thinking and speaking, for what we meditate on repeatedly is what will govern our choices when pressure comes.
- Partial obedience is still disobedience, and we must refuse to turn to the right or the left when God has clearly marked out the path He wants us to walk.
- Every new beginning God gives us is an opportunity to trust Him more deeply and to see His faithfulness displayed in ways we could never accomplish on our own.

Discussion

1. What “Moses is dead” moments have you experienced, where God seemed to be calling you forward into something new, and how did you respond to His commission?
2. How does knowing that the land was already promised and given by God change the way Joshua was to advance? How should that shape the way we approach the mission God has placed before us?
3. Why do you think God repeats the command to “be strong and courageous” three times in this passage? Where do you most need to hear that command right now?
4. What does it look like practically for God's Word to “not depart from your mouth” and to meditate on it day and night in the rhythms of a busy week?
5. Where are you tempted to turn to the right or the left from clear obedience to Scripture, and what fear or desire is driving that temptation?
6. What is one specific step of courageous obedience you sense God calling you to take this week, and how can this group pray for you and hold you accountable as you take it?

Prayer

- Pray for hearts to embrace God's new beginnings with courage and trust.
- Pray for:
 - God's Word to shape the preaching, teaching, and worship at our church.
 - Our personal obedience, that we would meditate on Scripture and walk in it daily.
 - Our neighbors in Ocala who do not yet know Christ, that we would go with courage.

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Joshua 1:1-9

- I. **We must embrace God's commission confidently.** 1:1-4
 - 1. Accept His plan. 1:1-2
 - 2. Advance His mission. 1:3-4

- II. **We must embrace God's promises courageously.** 1:5-6
 - 2. Count on His presence. 1:5
 - 3. Lead in His power. 1:6

- III. **We must embrace God's Word completely.** 1:7-9
 - 1. Obey its commands. 1:7
 - 2. Meditate on its contents. 1:8
 - 3. Experience its success. 1:9

NEXT WEEK:

Liberty in Order

Joshua 1:10-18