

STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

THE PROMISED LAND WEEK 6 | AMANDA BEGGS

Joshua 1:1-9

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. 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. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Question: Where do I find the strength and courage to face what's ahead?

Strength isn't found in pumping ourselves up but in anchoring ourselves down—to the unfailing, unchanging Word of God.

Deuteronomy 34:10

Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.

Anchors of Scripture

1. God's Promises: He is faithful
2. God's Presence: He is with you
3. God's Precepts: His Word guides you

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Question: What keeps you from reading your Bible?

For many of us the Bible is:

- Too intimidating
- Too familiar

→ Or, we can come to it hungry (I want to know God and walk in His strength)

GOD'S PROMISES: HE IS FAITHFUL

Trusting and praying God's promises changes the way we approach Scripture. We move from duty to delight.

Psalm 1:1-3

Blessed is the one...delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

How do I view the Bible

- Textbook: Something to study and check off
- Rulebook: A list of dos and don'ts
- Book of Fables: Collection of moral tales
- Self-Help Book: Motivational tips, quotes, or inspiration

The Bible is most of all a Story. It's an adventure story about a Young Hero who comes from a far away country to win back his lost treasure. It's a love story about a Brave Prince who leaves his palace, his throne—everything—to rescue the one he loves. It's like the most wonderful of all fairy tales that has come true in real life! You see the best thing about this Story is—it's true. There are lots of stories in the Bible but all the stories are telling one Big Story. The Story of how God loves His children and comes to rescue them.

- Sally Lloyd Jones, *The Jesus Storybook Bible*

God's Word:

- Gives life: *Matthew 4:4*
- Nourishes believers: *1 Peter 2:2*
- Encourages and gives hope: *Romans 15:4*
- Comforts in affliction: *Psalms 119:50*
- Builds faith: *Romans 10:17*
- Lights our path: *Psalms 119:105*
- Gives wisdom and understanding: *Psalms 19:7*
- Equips for every good work: *2 Timothy 3:16-17*
- Keeps us from sin: *Psalms 119:11*
- Brings joy: *Jeremiah 15:16*
- Sanctifies us: *John 17:17*
- Arms us for battle: *Ephesians 6:17*
- Provides stability and endurance: *Matthew 7:24*
- Points us to Jesus: *John 5:39*
- Gives peace: *Psalms 119:165*

Isaiah 55:11

So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Delighting in God's Word stems from desiring to know God Himself.

Psalm 119:18

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

GOD'S PRESENCE: HE IS WITH US

Eastern meditation says, everything you need is within you.
Hebrew meditation says, everything you need is in God.

The question isn't do you meditate?
The question is on what do you meditate?

In your darkest moments, what you've meditated on will either make you faithful or fearful.

Matthew 4:4

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Question: In your darkest moment, what comes out of you?

Resource: *Breath as Prayer*, Jennifer Tucker

GOD'S PRECEPTS: HIS WORD GUIDES US

"It ain't the parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it's the parts that I do understand."
- Mark Twain

Joshua 1:7

Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left...

The greatest threat to our obedience isn't rebellion—it's drift.

Question: What voices in your life carry the same authority as God's Word?

Joshua 21:43-45

So the Lord gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they took possession of it and settled there. The Lord gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their ancestors. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the Lord gave all their enemies into their hands. Not one of all the Lord's good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.

Joshua 23:14

Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.

Meditate on Joshua 23:14:

You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.