

God's Calling Requirement Part 1

Be Strong and Courageous

"1 Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, 2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. 5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. 6 Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them. 7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. 9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." (Joshua 1:1-9 KJV)

The chosen message today is from the book of Joshua. Moses the servant of the LORD led the people from Egypt out from slavery that they were suffering under Pharaoh's hands and delivered them from the oppression of the Egyptians. Moses took 2-3 millions of the people of God out of Egypt escaping from Pharaoh's army under God's mighty hand of guidance and protection. God was with Moses and supported his leadership. God was with His people against Pharaoh of Egypt; He opened the sea and led them on a dry land but when Pharaoh's army entered the sea, He brought the water back on them and no one of them escaped. But God delivered His people and brought them out on a safe ground. Moses led the people of God for 40 years in the desert and he brought them to the border of the promise land. At this point Moses service ended, he died and buried by God. Therefore somebody should continue the task to lead the people and bring them into the Promised Land. **There is a vacant place needed to be filled with a suitable person. For this reason God continually calling people because there is a work needed to be done and a task needed to be finished. You who read or listen to the message are one of those whom God is calling. Don't say, 'Why me,' God is calling you to serve Him.**

For forty years Joshua was with Moses in the wilderness and they were longing to enter the Promise Land, but God did not allow it for forty years, now the time had come that God is calling Joshua to do it. **Certain times when God is delaying to fulfill His promise we might doubt and get discouraged, but we should not be daunted or be double minded because God sooner or later will fulfill all His promises to us.**

Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, was chosen for this task. Being Moses aide he knew from Moses what God's vision is and what are His commands and what God's

requirements are. Joshua was a man who knew the truth and goes along with Moses and agrees with the vision that God entrusted to Moses. Joshua became Moses' minister and was chosen to succeed Moses because he was a man of faith. Among the twelve men that was sent by Moses to spy and explore the land, only Joshua and Caleb they brought a good report and they encouraged the people that God will give to them the land if He is pleased with them. But the other men discouraged the people. Joshua had faith in God because he was willing to obey God and walk in His ways and believed that God will fulfill what He had promised him. **People fail to have faith in God because faith in God requires obedient acts and submission to God that people not willing to follow.**

God had sent His Son the Lord Jesus Christ to save us from sin and death. Jesus died on the cross for our sins; He was buried and rose from the death on the third day to give eternal life to us, we who believe in Him and follow His steps in our lives. **God is calling us to inherit eternity with Him and to call others and bring them to Him to inherit eternal life with us. But God's calling required a genuine, sincere faith and obedience so we can lead others. Jesus said a blind cannot lead a blind. You ought to be an obedient person in order for you to lead others into the path of God.**

God said to Joshua, ***"Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel."*** (Joshua 1:2 KJV) The statement that we want to emphasis on here is ***"now therefore arise."*** God's calling needs alertness, vigilance and diligence. ***"now therefore arise"*** it means to have faith in God and believe on His Word and Promises. ***"now therefore arise"*** it means to obey God and to observe His Word and commands. ***"now therefore arise"*** it mean to arise for the hard work and the great task of God.

Now here we want to emphases that God's calling is not a journey that is smooth and easy and it is not the task that will be achieved without sweat or tears. **But hard work and struggle with many forces in order to overcome. But remember you are not alone, God is with you, as He promised, *"I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."***

God asked Joshua that he is going to lead the people to cross the Jordan River. The people were around 2-3 millions population, with all their belongings are required to cross the river. At that time there were no bridges and there were no airplanes and the people of God had no ships to travel with. In addition to this obstacle at the next bank of the river there are the people of the land whom the people of God will engage later on in a battle to drive them out and settle in their land. So from one-side families, women, children, old people, many things needed to be carried, as well as their animals, cattle and sheep. On the other side of the equation are the Jordan River with its flooded with water and the enemies that are waiting ahead of the people. All these things were in the head of Joshua when God called him. **You just imagined many things with many details in your head need to be arranged and go along the vision of God and the task that needs to be accomplished through you. But take courage, and have faith in God you are not alone God is with you.**

God's calling requires courage, faith, obedience, as well as planning, wisdom and readiness to fight, to sacrifice, and to stand firm in faith until God would fulfill His noble purpose in our lives.

God's calling is parallel to God's blessings. Many they are afraid when they hear about God's calling; they try to hide from the Lord and avoid taking the responsibility and doing the work of God. But one important thing need to be made clear, God's calling for service is God's way in blessing us.

God's calling is God's way to prepare you and to cleanse you from your sins and all your shortcomings. So don't be afraid, God wants to bless you in a new way. Your commitment to respond to God's call and your diligence to live as true disciple of Jesus and be in line with Him and His call will be greatly rewarded by the Lord.

God promised Joshua the following: ***"4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast."*** (Joshua 1:4 KJV) In the same way as you obey God's call and response to Him your territory of blessings and area of influence will increase as well; you will be going to hit and reach great things in your life and you will do it for the glory of God.

Christ death on the cross for our sins had paved the way for us to reach Heaven and paid the prize for our sins. Jesus blood as we repent would cleanse us from all our sins and give us a clear conscious to serve God. We will be sanctified with His blood, His Word and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. And we will receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit that empower us and open doors for us to preach the gospel. And He will give us the anointing to stand firm in faith and preach His Word and proclaim His will boldly, as He promised Joshua, ***"5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."*** (Joshua 1:5 KJV) There will be no man and no power of darkness can stand against us as we commit ourselves to go and preach His Word and do the work that He entrusted to us. We come against all the power of darkness and the work of Satan and we rebuke it in the name of Jesus. Nothing can stand against the work of God that He is doing through our lives.

As you obey God and trust Him, He will do with you more miracles and support you as He supported Moses and Joshua. God just wants people who are willing and obedience so He will show His glory to them, as the Lord Had promised, ***"40 Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?"*** (John 11:40 KJV)

To take the responsibility to do God's work is a great and sensitive task but the Lord encourage us through His word and message to us, ***"So I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."*** Therefore, ***"Be strong and of a good courage,"*** God wants you to be a man of courage; with boldness you will live your life to God and proclaim His will and His message to the people around you; ***"for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them."*** (Joshua 1:6 KJV) Joshua was called by God to lead the people into the Promised Land and to divide the land among them. God is calling you as well as to lead others and bring them into the Kingdom of God. So if they will see you shaken and afraid how themselves will follow God's calling. People their eyes are on you. So you need to be strong and courageous to be an example and a model to them to follow Christ.

The Lord will give you the required strength and all what you are going to need in your journey to serve God. He will be watching over you and will protect you as you move on to do His will and perform His plan.

God said to Joshua, ***"So I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."*** ***"Be strong and of a good courage,"*** because Joshua was afraid and the Lord wanted to encourage him and motivate him to go and conquer the Promise Land. In the same way, God knows what you are passing through, and the Lord through this message wants to encourage you and to motivate you to rise up, to go forward and to conquer the promises of God.

"7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest." (Joshua 1:7 KJV) Sometimes as God calling you, you might be tempted to turn to the right or to the left especially when people pressurize you and wants you to compromise. Or certain times the worldliness inside of you causing you to be tempted to move not in the direction that God is sending you. Therefore God wants you to be strong and very courageous to say no to sin or to disobedience so you will ensure the flow of the blessings of God in your life and on all what you put your hand on.

To ensure that you are walking in the way of the Lord and according to His plan and will, the Lord command you to do the following, ***"8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."*** (Joshua 1:8 KJV) Three essential steps you need to follow and not give up: 1. Read the Word of God that is in the Bible. Read your Bible daily. 2. Meditate on what the Word of God says day and night. 3. Be careful to do everything written in the Word of God. Then you will be promoted automatically to the next two steps 4. Be prosperous 5. And successful.

"9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." (Joshua 1:9 KJV) God wants you to be a clear minded and stand firm in faith and obedience to His Word and commands, and not to be shaken by trials or hardship and difficulties, as you accept God's calling for you in your life. Do not be like Peter when he saw the wind started to sink, but be like Joshua with a strong heart to go on and obey the Lord.

My Dear and Beloved: "3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you." (Joshua 1:3 KJV) God's calling requires claiming the land physically. It requires moving physically, hard working, claiming the promises of God, and reaching the goals that the vision of God set before us to achieve. We need to believe in the promise of God that whatever we put our hand on will prosper. Now we have more facility to reach far places through what God made available to us through the media.

You need to get ready. Therefore wake up, arise be sober, be man of courage, be strong, be ready to take the steps of faith and willing to obey and take the responsibility and the task to lead others into eternal life. Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life.

Lord I thank you for the encouraging Word that you sent to me. Lord I commit myself to the calling of yours to me to rise up and to lead others and those around me to Jesus, the way and the truth and the life, and to have faith in Him and to receive eternal life.

Lord I repent from the following sins _____. Lord I renounce them all.

Lord I commit myself that I will separate myself from the world and the life of sin that will hinder me from following you.

Lord I commit myself to the mission and the task that you entrusted to me. Lord I commit myself to go forward and to accomplish the ministry required till it is done.

Lord I pray that you will help me to bear all the pressure of life and the persecution. Lord help me to bear all the attack of the enemy and the work that devil is trying doing against me as I determined to serve you and to do what you asked me to do. Lord I trust that you will fight all my enemies and that no one will be able to stand against what you had ordained to happen. Lord gives me good health, strength and provides all my need so that I will continue to serve you.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who committed themselves to the principle of this message of yours and made themselves ready for your calling in their lives. Lord blesses them, and sustains them and provides all their needs so they will continue to serve you. Lord increases their faith and their trust in you and helps them to go on and overcome the obstacles that are ahead of them. Lord fights on their behalf and don't allow the enemy to hinder them from progressing forward.

Lord I pray that you will go before us as a church and lead us to streets, buildings, cities, villages to reach new people and to bring Jesus into their lives. Lord helps us that our life example will be attractive to others to know you and to follow you. Lord refills us once again with the Holy Spirit so that we can go and evangelize and make new disciples and complete the work that you ordained for us to do. Lord protects us from the evil one and provide our needs to continue to serve you. Lord helps us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us and enlarge our territory, let your hands be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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