

## Conclusion

As you start 2021, thinking about how you view yourself in the future, remain faithful to biblical convictions, faithful to biblical truth. Know the Law of God. Believe the Law of God. Be convinced about the Word of God. Be faithful to the Word of God and develop a strong affection for the Word of God.

That was why Joshua was so successful. Joshua was a good soldier, but he was no more brilliant as a commander than countless others who have swept across the battle plains of world history. Joshua was a leader of men, but he was no more gifted at that than many others. Joshua's great secret was that he made it his job to know the law of God and do it.

## A Glorious Irony and Transforming Gospel

Scotty Smith

*When they [Joseph and Mary] had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. Luke 2:39-40*

Lord Jesus, the irony in this story is most glorious. Eight days into your incarnate life, Joseph and Mary took you to the Temple and did "everything by the Law of the Lord," on your behalf. But you came to fulfill the Law for them, and (hallelujah), for us as well.

Our hearts soar, knees bend, and hands rise... as ponder your perfect obedience and completed sacrifice. Before taking the death we deserve, you lived the life we could not live. You were raised for our justification, and will return for our glorification. Hallelujah!

Indeed, your last words from the cross, "It is finished!" are our forever words of peace. Our lives are now hidden in you, rooted in your love, and enveloped in your grace—riches beyond calculation.

By the same grace you saved us, you're now changing us. What will this look like in 2021? In what ways are we not as free, holy, and joyful as you intend? The Gospel put an end to all earning, but not all effort. You deserve our obedient love, Jesus, and you call us to Spirit-surrender.

What sin and shame, selfishness and resentments, habits and fears will you free us from in the new year? So very Amen we pray, in your most glorious and gracious name.



January 3, 2021

10:30 A.M.

## Be Strong and Courageous

HAVE I NOT COMMANDED YOU?  
**BE STRONG**

AND COURAGEOUS!  
*Do Not Be Frightened*

*Do Not Be Dismayed*

**For The LORD**

*Your* **G O D**

**IS WITH YOU WHEREVER**

**YOU GO**

Joshua 1:9

Knowing-Jesus.com

# Order of Service

## Announcements

## Welcome

## Preparation for Worship

----- God's Greatness -----

## Call to Worship

## Hymns

“All Glory” . . . . . David Regier

“Great Things” . . . . . Myrin/Wickham

## Prayer of Invocation

## Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed\*

## Hymn

“My Savior My God” . . . . . Aaron Shust

## Children are Dismissed to Sunday School

----- God's Renewal -----

## Understanding Ourselves Rightly

## Public Confession

## Silent Confession

## Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Romans 6:5-7

## Song of Renewal

“Show Us Christ” . . . . . Plank/Kauflin

----- God's Grace -----

## Scripture Reading: Joshua 1:1-9

## Prayer

## Sermon

“Be Strong and Courageous”

## Celebration of the Lord's Supper\*\*

## Hymn

“And Can it Be”. . . . . Wesley/Campbell

## Prayer of Approach

## Words of Institution: 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (ESV)

----- God's Blessing -----

## Parting Hymn

“My Worth is Not in What I Own”. . . . . Getty/Kendrick

## Benediction

## 4. Joshua was Commanded to Be Strong and of Good Courage

*Joshua 1:6,7,9 (ESV)*

*Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. <sup>7</sup>Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. <sup>9</sup>Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*

### A. God Commands Fearlessness

Be strong. Be courageous — those are positives. And two negatives: Don't be frightened. Don't be dismayed.

God doesn't send them into the fight alone but allows his presence to go with them. He says to them — to us — **“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).**

When the road was difficult and the enemies intimidating and the battle raging, God was near to his children, standing by ready to help and protect and satisfy them. He gave them his manual and then moved in with them.

### B. Fearlessness Is Faith

*This is a call to faith — faith in the promised strength of God. And for Christians, this is a strength that was purchased for us by the blood of Jesus, though we deserve nothing but destruction. We know that all the blessings that come into the lives of sinners are coming from the purchase of Jesus Christ.*

**What's the end game, what's the final purpose of God summoning us to enjoy his strength so that we can be fearless?** What's the goal? Is it so we can be puffed up? You're not going to be puffed up if God is the one giving the strength.

*“Whoever serves, [let him do it] as one who serves by the strength that God supplies — in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever.” (1 Peter 4:11)*

The end, the goal, the outcome of this command when we live in the strength that God supplies and are free from fear and full of courage in our day, it is that God gets the glory.

*Ephesians 6:10 (ESV)*

<sup>10</sup> *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.*

## Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 17 6:15-7:15 P.M.

GCC Prayer Gathering at the House of Prayer

### \*The Apostles Creed

Although not written by the apostles, the Apostles' Creed is a concise summary of their teachings. It originated in the 2nd century and developed into its present form by the 6th century. By referring to Jesus' descent into hell, the Christian embraces two truths. Firstly, Jesus received the full sentence of hell on behalf of his people while on the cross. Secondly, Jesus experienced the reign of death by remaining in the tomb after the crucifixion. The term catholic refers to the church universal, knowing no racial, economic, geographical, or language barriers.

### \*\*Prayers for Those Not Communing

**Prayer of Searching for Truth:** Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

**Prayer of Believing on Jesus:** Lord, Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my savior. Amen.

**Prayer of Struggling Against Sin:** Lord, Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me, and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the pioneer and champion of my faith. Amen.

### What does Courage Look Like?

#### 1. Joshua was to know God's Word

*Joshua 1:7,8 (ESV)*

*Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. <sup>8</sup>This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

Nothing in life ever happens apart from courage.

Joshua was to read it and study it with eager, focused study free of distractions. The reader's posture pictures the text's importance: the reader hunches over it, eyes riveted on every syllable in order not to miss any detail. To "skim" the law is to imperil one's future by missing something crucial. Indeed, it is not enough simply to read it, think about it, or even talk about it. Joshua must "be careful to act" on it—to put Moses' instructions into practice, live it out, and give it feet in the real world. Only "doing" the law will give Joshua success,

The hope of Israel wasn't in their own ability to defeat their enemies and capture the land of Canaan. No, their hope was in the power of God to fulfill his promise to them.

#### 2. Joshua was to talk about God's Word.

*The text says, "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth"* (Josh. 1:8). Joshua was to be conversing about the Bible in his normal day-by-day contacts with family, soldiers, friends, and others who were part of the nation.

#### 3. Joshua was to obey God's Word in its entirety.

Not only was Joshua to know, speak about, and meditate on the law of Moses, he was also and chiefly to obey it. God said, "Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left.... Be careful to do everything written in it" (Josh. 1:7–8).

As we read the Bible, we get information. You come to understand what it says. Then as you continue to read the Word of God, that information becomes belief. And then that belief becomes conviction. And then conviction is what I firmly believe that it controls my life. And then conviction ultimately becomes affection. And that's when you say with David, "O how I love Your Law." Remain faithful to your biblical convictions. Don't be hypocritical. Don't be double-minded. Don't be duplicitous.

## Prayer/Praise. . . . . January 3, 2021

- Pray for the family of Ashley and Jeremy Adams. The whole family has COVID. Pray that their minor symptoms will not worsen and good health returns quickly.
- Pray for Dr. Hsu, Jill Aument's employer. Dr. Hsu's father and mother have Covid. Her father is in ICU. They are in Georgia, so it is difficult for travel. Please pray for God's healing hand on them and peace for Dr. Hsu and direction on how to handle everything.
- Pray for comfort and peace for Steve Simons and his family, who lost their Aunt Marie a few weeks ago.
- Pray for Donna Plowfield's son-in-law, David, who is seeking employment in physical therapy in this area.
- Pray for Mandy's friend Dana's mom, Mrs. Mayo. Praise that she was extubated this past week. They linked her infection to her dialysis catheter. Pray that she will be restored to full physical and mental health. Pray for peace for Dana and her sisters.
- Pray for Lisa Frame's friend, Risa, whose husband passed away. Please continue to pray for peace to overcome and fill her heart.
- Praise for Lisa Frame's friend, Katelyn, whose cancer is low risk and treatable. She had surgery on December 18th. Continued prayers for wisdom for her doctors.
- Pray for Nic Collins, who will be going to Quito, Ecuador for a mission trip at the end of March. Pray for travel, safety, and no COVID. Pray for funds to be raised, as they will be helping in the capital with special needs children and teens.
- Pray for the opportunity for Joie's friend to join her for church during this season.
- Pray for Debbie Breyer, friend of Donna Jenkins. Debbie is back in the hospital. The infection in her leg returned, and she has water around her heart. Pray for wisdom for the doctors to find a solution to this recurring issue.
- Pray for Joe, the father of Dawn Fleetman's friend, Mike. Pray for continued healing for Joe.
- Pray for Jeremiah Mace, who is in a 9-month internship program. Please pray for continued healing for Koreen's family.
- Pray for Amanda and John, friends of Koreen Mace, that God will speak to them about their relationship and assurance of their salvation.
- Pray for Tyler and Kaci Yensan, as Kaci prepares to join Tyler in North Carolina.
- Pray for continued healing for Mandi Yensan's friend, Tammy.

## Message

### Be Strong and Courageous in Jesus The First Sunday of 2021

*Joshua 1:1–9 (ESV)*

*After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, <sup>2</sup>"Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. <sup>3</sup>Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. <sup>4</sup>From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. <sup>5</sup>No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. <sup>6</sup>Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. <sup>7</sup>Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. <sup>8</sup>This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. <sup>9</sup>Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."*

#### Introduction

Joshua had massive shoes to fill. Was he man enough to step into the role that Moses had? Joshua was the man of God's choosing. And just as he had spoken to Moses for the sake of Israel, he now spoke to Joshua. Joshua stood with Israel before the land of Canaan, just a Jordan away from God's promise, but they also knew they were on the brink of war. It was an exciting and frightening moment. And God's words for these weak and chosen people are found in Joshua <sup>1</sup>.

#### The main point of the Text

Joshua must maintain firm faith and fixed focus, leaving fear and despair no quarter. The basis for his faith and focus also reiterates a theme in v. 5b—God's constant, never-ending presence with him ("the Lord . . . will be with you"). And the twofold repetition of "wherever you go" (vv. 7, 9) underscores that his presence knows no territorial boundaries. Joshua need never wonder whether he may unwittingly wander into realms where Yahweh cannot go and is powerless to conquer. On the contrary, wherever Joshua's mandate takes him, no human can stop him (v. 5a), and his obedience to the law guarantees success (vv. 7b, 8b). With God he is unstoppable.