

*Have I not commanded you? Be of good courage; be not frightened, neither be dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. – Joshua 1:9*

Joshua had just been given a big job...a REALLY BIG job! He was to take over Moses' position as leader of the Hebrew people. It would be his responsibility to bring them into the Promised Land and that wouldn't be easy! The Hebrews were often rebellious, ignoring their leaders. Likewise, the situation would be dangerous. They would have to face people who had more powerful armies than they had. Joshua had every reason to be frightened and dismayed. However, he had one very good reason to be strong and courageous.

I wonder if Joshua occasionally thought that maybe this was a little too much for one person. But God always seems to ask more of us than we think we can deliver.

Think of the Ten Commandments. Do you know anyone who has ever lived up to them except Jesus? And then Jesus told us that He had only one commandment to give to us and that 'Love One Another' but that is almost impossible for everyone. It's easy to get discouraged and think about giving up but God says, "Have I not commanded you?"

When God commands, he always offers promises.

He has promised:

- That in Christ we are loved and forgiven.
- That the Lord God is with us wherever we go.
- That He will help us and give us strength and courage to do all that He asks of us.

We can face the most difficult challenges when we trust in the promises of God!

*Question: What has God commanded you to do? What kind of strength does He give to us?*