

Tuesday Devotional

September 1st, 2020

“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.” – Joshua 1:9

Recently I was reading through the Book of Joshua and was encouraged by this verse. What an amazing promise to Joshua, the new leader of the nation of Israel. This promise was not just for Joshua though, it was given to Moses, continued through Joshua, and given to the entire nation of Israel. This promise is wonderfully repeated throughout the book of Joshua as a reminder to Joshua and to the people of God. We all need this reminder, don't we? This promise that, *“the LORD your God is with you wherever you go”* is meant to be deeply comforting to God's people. To know that God is with you wherever you go is a promise that God is present in my life. No matter how far we move away, no matter the circumstances we face, no matter how bad the world seems to get, this promise is a command to trust in the Lord rather than ourselves. This then should encourage us to not only have a life that is fearless, but also a life filled with strength and courage, as the Lord tells Joshua, *“Be strong and courageous”*. However, this strength and courage do not come from pulling up our bootstraps and trying really really hard. No! it comes from the one who promises I will be with you and will not forsake you! This strength and courage comes from the one who is always present. When we stop trying to do things in our strength and put our trust in the Lord, who is all powerful, we will find true strength and courage. It is better to fear the God who is present with you and is over all things, than to fear the situation you find yourself in. One of the most beautiful parts about this promise found in Joshua 1:9 is that it was not just meant for Joshua and the nation of Israel, but for Christians today as well. As Hebrews 13:5-6 points out, this promise of the Lord's presence in our lives will lead us to true contentment, fearlessness, and courage in all of life. So, let us dwell upon this promise today. Let us be encouraged and strengthened. Let us be fearless no matter what we face today, for our almighty God is present with us when we put our trust in Him.

For Further Study: Deuteronomy 31:6; Isaiah 41:13-14; Hebrews 13:5-6; 1 Peter 5:6-7