

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

Deuteronomy 31:23

**Today we'll consider several situations where
God commands strength and courage**

I. COMMAND

A. THE DISSEMINATORS

1. Moses' advice to Joshua - Deut. 31:23 (see also v.7)
2. God's assurance for Joshua - Josh. 1:6, 7 & 9
3. Israel's affirmation of Joshua - Josh. 1:18
4. Joshua's acclamation to Israel - Josh 10:23

B. THE DETAILS

1. Be Strong: Fearless
 - a. To stand firm amid resistance
 - b. Used to describe Pharaoh's heart-hardening in Ex. 7:13
2. Be Courageous: Brave
 - a. Standing when others are cowering - Exp: David in I Sam. 17:32
 - b. A determined commitment - Exp: Used to describe Ruth's determination to go with Naomi

II. CONDITIONS

- Some situations where this phrase is used

A. WHEN CHALLENGED - Deut. 31:14-23

1. Moses is dying (14-15)
2. Israel will disobey (16)
3. God will depart (17-18)
 - And Israel will be troubled and turn to idolatry
4. Application: Children will disappoint
 - Parenting is difficult but failures ought not dissuade us from our God-given duty

B. WHEN OVERWHELMED - Joshua 1:1-9

1. About your work (1-6)
2. About your walk (7)
3. About your worship (8-9)
4. Application: About your ways
 - Piety is difficult and requires discipline

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C. WHEN HESITANT - Joshua 1:10-18

1. Crossing into the Promised Land (10-11)
 - See Num. 13:30-14:10
2. Commanding those who followed Moses (16-17)
3. Comprehending their level of commitment (18)
 - Willing to put to death any who disobeyed
4. Application: Contemplating your wife's submission
 - a. Partnering is difficult but trust is essential
 - b. Consider encouragement of Manoah's wife in Judges 13:21-23

D. WHEN VICTORIOUS - Joshua 10:6-26

1. The Situation (6-7)
2. The Success (8-11)
3. The Surprise (12-14)
4. The Summons (22-26)
 - a. Bring the kings (22-24)
 - b. Trust God for victory (25-26)
5. Application: The Song ...
 - a. We praise God when we encourage others to depend on Him
 - b. This is the first time that Joshua has uttered these words to others

CONCLUSION:

As God's people we can depend on the Lord's power and presence

- I will be with you - Deut. 31:23
- I will be with you, I will not fail or forsake you - Josh. 1:5
- Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go - Josh. 1:9

As men of God ...

- *Be strong and courageous, fearless and brave when challenged, overwhelmed, hesitant and victorious*