



“Making it to the finish line”

Joshua 1:9

1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ assistant, saying: **2** “Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. **3** Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. **4** From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. **5** No man shall *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. **6** Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. **7** Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. **8** This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe 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. **9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

My 2nd marathon- 2004, 2005

It was hard- the pain was real, the challenge was brutal in light of the circumstances.

Many people have asked now I could have stayed in one church for 44 years. Is it because I’m insane???

My pastor told me not to do it!!!

God’s salvation and God’s call. He set me free and He wants to set you free! He wants to fulfill your deepest need in your life- a personal walk with Jesus.

Luke 4:18- *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those*

who are oppressed,...”

1

➤ Today I will tell you how I have done it. 4 Reasons WHY This is not only in ministry, but in marriage and other relationships.

DON'T KWIT AND DON'T KOMPROMISE!!!!

In my study and in my cottage I have signs that state the words found in verse 9.

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

✓ 1. Depend on God's promises- verses 1-5a

Galatians 6:9-10

1 Corinthians 15:57, 58

Not depart from your mouth

Meditate on it day and night Notice the connection with the

Observe to do it Word and victory

Turn not to the right or the left

A ride like a roller coaster at Disney with my mother- My friend Bryce made me a promise.

I don't know what He is doing, but I do know what He did!

Isaiah 43:2-3- English Standard Version

***2When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.***

***3For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. ...***

Philippians 1:6; 2:13

✓ 2. Recognize God's presence- verse 5b, 9b

2

God's commitment of his presence and power to always be with us is powerfully encouraging, and it never changes.

Hebrews 13:5-6

It is very easy to quit.

Six practical reasons to quit

- It is hard
- I face criticism and slander

Ask anything

• I receive no
honor
(unappreciated)

3

- No one supports my ideas
- I am tired physically, emotionally, and spiritually
- I am unqualified

Victory is assured not because Joshua is a great leader, or because Israel is a great nation, but because God is a great God, and He says to Joshua, I will be with you. This is enough for any man seeking to do God's will.

Adrian Rogers introduces his series on the book of Joshua declaring that "God has given to every one of us a possession, and that possession is victory. Every Christian has victory as a gift. Every Christian is to be living a victorious life. Every Christian is to be an overcomer (1Jn 5:4-5+).... God has given to you victory, and if you're not living a victorious life—I mean, right now, if you're not living a victorious life—you, sir; you, lady; you, young person, are living beneath your privileges. And, while the Bible admits the possibility of failure, it never assumes the necessity of failure. As a matter of fact, the Bible says we're to always triumph in the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 2:14). And, the Book of Joshua is a book that is written to show us how we might have the victory that our Lord wants us to have.

Living victoriously is not your responsibility; it is, rather, your response to God's ability.

✓ 3. Trust in God's power- verses 6-9

The number of times we are told to not fear.

Isaiah 41:10; Psalm 37:7; Joshua 8:1; Deuteronomy 31:6; Luke 12:7; Psalm 27:3; 34:4- 5; 46:1; Joel 2:21; John 14:27; Deuteronomy 3:22; 56:3-4; Isaiah 43:1; Psalm 112:6-8; Ephesians 6:10

These are clear commands, not subtle suggestions!

4

This bold courage would not be in Joshua himself, but in God. We can be full of self-confidence that will take us to ruin, but we should instead be full of a genuine God-confidence.

A little boy in Sunday School interrupted his teacher as he told about David and Goliath. He explained how brave David was to face the giant Goliath. The little boy said, "David was not the brave one. Goliath was." "Why do you say that?" the teacher asked. The little boy explained, "Goliath had to go out and face David alone, but David had God with him."

✓ 4. Walk in God's prosperity- verse 7 and 8

God's word so lived is a guarantee of Christian success. Not that it promises a life without problems, but it does ensure a life able to deal with anything because it takes full advantage of God's presence and promises.

David Thompson writes "Joshua teaches us that conflict is always a prelude to conquest. Struggles always precede success."

A W Tozer: "Read it much, read it often, brood over it, think over it, meditate over it—meditate on the Word of God day and night. When you are awake at night, think of a helpful verse. When you get up in the morning, no matter how you feel, think of a verse and make the Word of God the important element in your day. The Holy Ghost wrote the Word, and if you make much of the Word, He will make much of you. It is through the Word that He reveals Himself. Between those covers is a living Book. God wrote it and it is still vital and effective and alive. God is in this Book, the Holy Ghost is in this Book, and if you want to find Him, go into this Book."

✓ People are impacted by what God calls you to do.

✓ You personally are being shaped by God to be all He wants you to be.

C. S. Lewis captures this idea in his usual succinct style in Mere Christianity: "A car is made to run on gasoline, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing."

III. My old cars were consistently pinging.

5

2 Timothy 4:6-8

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His

appearing.

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