

“Covenant Courage”
July 15, 2018

Joshua 1:1-9

CORE: There is a divine COURAGE that flows from being in COVENANT God.

1. WE RESPOND with FAITH

- **FAITH is more than a “belief system”—it’s a RESPONSE SYSTEM**
- **Romans 10:17 simply stated, “Faith hears God.” (NOTE: The NT word for “hearing” includes an immediate response of “obedience”—“Faith gets it & goes with it!”)**
- **Without hesitation:**
 - **Peter walking on water**
 - **Lame man walking, leaping, & praising God**
 - **Ecclesiastes 11:4- “Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest.” NLT**
- **At the Red Sea:**
 - **Israel saw the sea & heard the Egyptian army**
 - **Moses heard the voice of the Lord and gave a humanly illogical command: “Go forward!” (Exodus 14:15)**
- **Moses later sent 12 spies into the Promised Land.**
 - **10 spies gave a “bad report,” telling the people, “We are not able” (Numbers 13:30)**
 - **Joshua & Caleb saw the same difficult task, yet gave a “good report” saying, “We are well able to overcome it!” (Numbers 13:28)**
 - **Why? The 10 spies “did not mix it with faith” (Hebrews 4:2)**
- **Joshua 1- “Take My people into the land of Promises Fulfilled!”**
 - **“Be strong and very courageous” (3 times)**
 - **There comes a time to DO what God has told you to DO—without hesitation (1 Kings 18:21- Elijah: “How long will you hesitate?”)**

2. WE OVERCOME FEAR

- **“Fear is the most ‘socially acceptable sin’ in the Church.” –Kris Vallotton**
- **1 Corinthians 3:3, we are no longer “mere humans”—we are IN covenant**
- **Question: “If you were 10 times bolder—what is one thing you would do differently?” NOTE: If you can honestly answer this—FEAR has been robbing you of your destiny!**
 - **Deuteronomy 8:1- 1.5 million people commanded to enter the Promised Land**
 - **Yet, only 2 of them did. Why? They talked & acted like God was their COVENANT PARTNER**

- When we live in covenant with Him—we walk fearlessly
 - i.e., *Psalm 23:4- “Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death (i.e., the worst thing I could ever imagine) I will fear no evil (nothing will take me out) (Why?) for You are with me!”*
 - NOTE: “Fear” means “to surrender to” (“I won’t surrender to evil”)

3. WE WALK IN OUR NEW IDENTITY

The phrase “PUT ON” (used in both OT & NT) means “to act consistently with who you are” (i.e., *Behavior & identity align*)

Isaiah 59:17- “He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.”

This is God behaving consistently with His nature. Both fits & reflects Him.

“CHANGE OF CLOTHES” → a new IDENTITY & new BEHAVIOR

- Joseph exchanging slave’s garments for robe of a prince in Egypt
- Prodigal son—rags of the far country for the robe of beloved son
- NOTE: New clothes can feel awkward; yet, become “normal” as we walk in our new & true identity

Romans 13:14- “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.” NKJV

“Fully immerse yourselves into the Lord Jesus, the Anointed One, and don’t waste even a moment’s thought on your former identity to awaken its selfish desires.” TPT

When we “put on” behaviors consistent with our new identity in Jesus—we “starve out” the flesh, giving it no room to corrupt us! In the New Covenant—a radical change has taken place. We must now adopt the radical behavior that goes with it! Not out of self-will or religious duty—but as His children thru new birth into a new covenant!

“Be imitators of God as dear children.” (Ephesians 5:1) As children, it’s natural for us to become like Him! (i.e., “I can tell who your Father is!”)

RESPONSE:

King Saul was found “*hiding in the baggage*” (1 Samuel 10:22). Never became the courageous king he was meant to be.

David “*left his baggage*” (1 Samuel 17:22) and stepped into his destiny with courage—first killing Goliath and then becoming king.

It’s time to leave our baggage—and move courageously into our destinies!

