

April 10th

When Joshua begins leading the Israelites, God shares He is about to give them “every place where you set your foot” (Joshua 1:3). His only commands to Joshua? “Be careful to obey all the law” (v. 7), explaining that to do so, the law should be “always on your lips” (8). God doesn’t stop there, but three times charges Joshua to “be strong and courageous” (and He causes the Israelites to echo this in v. 18)

We might be tempted to think that it is easy for Joshua to be strong and courageous. After all, God promised that victory was undoubtedly his. Yet, we also see Christ moving in strength and courage when it would certainly lead to death (Luke 13:32). Even knowing this, Jesus went forward boldly, speaking hard truth about hell (v28) and heaven (v29), and performing miracles that would irk His enemies (14:1-4). Why? Because of that other command God gave Joshua—“be careful to obey...” God’s Word was always on Christ’s lips (after all, He is *the* Word (John 1:1)) and His life was spent in both communion with and service to His Father. Jesus knew His courage would lead to death; but He also knew it would lead to ultimate life. On earth, Christian courage can lead to adversity, but it always leads to life. Just like Joshua—and Jesus—we live in obedience as we learn, love, and dwell on His Word. Godly strength and courage will follow.

And, practically speaking, today’s Proverb gives one way to move toward that constant obedience—through godly friendships (Proverbs 12:26).

Question of the day: How can I practically meditate on God’s Word day and night? (Joshua 1:8).

Prayer: Lord, I want to live a life that’s strong and courageous for You. Please help me to keep Your Word, to have it always on my lips, and to meditate on it day and night. Amen.

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