

Message Extras

a little something extra to keep you connected to Jesus this week

Message Extras accompany the [weekly message](#).

“Be strong and courageous... Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:6-9

Sometimes when we read commands like this one, to be strong and courageous, we try to be good little Christians and jump straight into executing the command. When we do this, we will have some degree of success, but ultimately, we are created with very human limitations, and we fail. Our strength is limited, and our courage is limited, so how can God command us to be strong and courageous? First, He is God, and He can do whatever He wants, but He doesn't give us this command expecting us to muster our strength and courage. He gives us the source of strength and courage with the command. In verses 7 and 8, he instructs Joshua 2 times (and us through Joshua) to look to and pattern our lives after the Word of God.

God also gives the instruction to meditate on the Word of God. I wonder if the author of Psalm 46 was reading God's command to Joshua to meditate on the Word of God and be strong. And in reading this command, was he inspired by God to write, “God is our refuge and strength...be still and know that He is God.” I will add this to my list of questions for heaven.

God promises Joshua, “when you pattern your life after the teachings of My Word, when you continually meditate on My Word, when you are still and know that I AM, you will succeed in all you do.” If you knew that you would succeed in everything you do, wouldn't this make you very strong and courageous? All that is required is that we study, meditate, and obey the Word of God in every aspect of our life.

Now if you are anything like me, you may be thinking, “it's not easy to pattern every aspect of my life based on the Word of God. That is too much to ask!” But God has us covered here too. He tells Joshua (and us through Joshua), “For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” First, He says, “pattern your life after My Word.” Then, He says, “As you go about your life, I will give you Myself to be strength and courage in and through you

wherever you go.” There is a beautiful, divine mystery at work here. We are commanded to be something we aren’t by obeying God’s Word and resting in Him alone. When we obey His Word and rest in Him wherever we go, He makes us strong and courageous. So, He gives us the command and gives us the strategy and power to obey the command. Our God alone has the power and wisdom to complete such a work in each of us. Be still and know He is God. Pattern your life based on His Word, rest in Him, and be strong and courageous.

- What is one thing, one area, one aspect of your life God is calling you to be strong and courageous in? Are you trying to be strong in your strength, or are you resting in the Almighty?
- How can the lesson of daily being still and knowing God is, help you be strong and courageous?
- Read Nehemiah 8:8-11 AND 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. What connections do you observe in these passages with Joshua 1:6-9 and Psalm 46 that help you better understand the Lord is your strength?

