

**“A MANDATE FROM GOD”**  
**JOSHUA 1:1-9**

**INTRO:** As Christians we have the strength, the power, the wisdom, the insight and the ability to do all God wants us to do. And yet many times we falter, fail and fall in doing the will of God, whether it is in our ministry or our personal lives. WHY IS THIS THE CASE? Well, it certainly is not God's fault, is it? NO! **THEN IT MUST BE A WEAKNESS IN OUR LIVES.** Would you agree? In the text before us, God was giving Joshua the great task of LEADING ISRAEL INTO THE PROMISED LAND. This task was NOT going to be without trial or trouble. God knew that and Joshua knew that! Therefore GOD GAVE JOSHUA A MANDATE TO FOLLOW THAT WOULD ENABLE HIM TO FULFILL WHAT SEEMED TO BE AN INSURMOUNTABLE TASK TO JOSHUA. **That mandate given to Joshua by God is the same mandate you and I have before us as we go throughout life.** WHAT IS THAT MANDATE? **OBSERVE VERSE 9.**

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**I. THE CONTEXT TO BE ASSESSED – VSS. 1-5**

A. The Cessation of Moses – Joshua 1:1

1. Moses had led Israel for 40 years from Egypt to the Promised Land but he was not allowed by God to actually take them into the Land. This was the result of Moses STRIKING THE ROCK FOR WATER AT MERIBAH INSTEAD OF SPEAKING TO IT. Cp. Numbers 20:7-13.

2. Moses died on Mt. Nebo just east of the Promised Land.

Cp. Deuteronomy 34:1-4

B. The Call of Joshua

NOTE: Joshua was the right man for the task and God called him because of his spiritual integrity. Cp. Deuteronomy 31:7,8

**CONSIDER THE MINISTRY OF JOSHUA**

1. As a young man Joshua served in the Tabernacle – Exodus 33:11

2. As a courageous spy at Kadesh-Barnea Joshua was sent into the Promised Land and along with Caleb came back with a good report – Numbers 14:6-9

3. As a servant of God Joshua was Divinely Appointed to succeed Moses in taking Israel into the Promised Land – Numbers 27:18-23

4. As a man of faith, Joshua “WHOLLY FOLLOWED THE LORD”

-Numbers 32:12

5. As God's Chosen Vessel as soon as Moses died, Joshua took over the leadership of Israel to cross the Jordan into the Promised Land – Joshua 1:1-5

6. As an obedient follower of God, Joshua did all God commanded.

-Joshua 11:23

ILLUSTRATION:

**II. THE COMMAND TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED - 1:6-9**

A. The Sense of the Command – Vs. 9a

**THIS WAS THE MANDATE GOD GAVE JOSHUA TO KEEP**

1. “Be Strong”

-This word means *to be firm and not swayed by others from the direction God is leading.* **Every Christian has been tempted to sway.**

2. “Be Courageous”

-This word means *to be bold and daring for God.* **Every effective Christian MUST maintain this characteristic.**

3. “Be Not Afraid”

-This word means *to be terrified and under oppression.* **Satan is often the source of fear to those who serve God to prevent them doing great things for the Lord. Faith in God conquers all Fear!**

4. “Be Not Dismayed”

-This word means *to be discouraged at the prospect of trouble.* **Every Christian will face hindrances but WE MUST NOT let them to deter us.**

B. The Source of the Command – Vs. 9b

**THE PRESENCE OF GOD! (MEANS ALL THAT GOD IS!)**

1. It means power

2. It means wisdom

3. It means ability

4. It means control

5. It means victory

C. The Stability of the Command – Vs. 8

**THE LAW OF GOD! (THE INFALLIBLE SCRIPTURE)**

1. It is to be a part of our life – “Not Depart from thy mouth”

2. It is to be studied – “Thou shalt meditate.”

3. It is to be habitual – “Day and Night.”

4. It is to be obeyed – “Observe to do according to all.”

5. It will bring victory

-“Thou shalt make thy way prosperous” (Push forward positively)

-“Thou shalt have good success” (Seize control of)

ILLUSTRATION:

**III. THE CAUSE TO BE ACCOMPLISHED**

A. In Joshua's Day there was a Land to Conquer – And Joshua did!

B. In our Day Christ to Represent – And we must!

ILLUSTRATION:

**IV. THE COMMITMENT TO BE ACCEPTED**

-The mandate is to be STRONG, COURAGEOUS, FEARLESS AND NOT DISCOURAGED **DEPENDING ON GOD'S PRESENCE AND OBEYING GOD'S WORD. WILL YOU BE COMMITTED TO THE MANDATE?**

ILLUSTRATION:

**APPLICATION/CONCLUSION: 2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8**