**Sermon Title: The Energizers of Courage**

**Sermon Text: Joshua 1:6-9**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to the biblical necessity of sustainable strength and courage.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 3 assurances that energizes the believer’s strength and courage.**

**Introduction:** Preparing to reflect God in the land (**1:1-5:12**) was no small responsibility. Deuteronomy provides God’s instructions on how to live a victorious life in the land of blessing and promise. Moses is the symbol of deliverance and Joshua the emblem of victory. This is also the dual role of leaders today, as well as the followers of Jesus Christ. Joshua teaches us the lesson that faith and obedience is “the victory that overcomes.”

**1 John 5:4** For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-- ourfaith.

**I. The assurance of God’s promises energizes courage. V.6**

**II. The assurance of God’s provisions energizes courage. Vv.7-8**

**III. The assurance of God’s presence energizes courage. V.9**

**I. The assurance of God’s promises energizes courage. V.6**

 A. The **confidence** as a result of the promise. V.6a

 B. The **concern** as a result of the promise. V.6b

 History reveals many of the tribes never drove out the enemies who remained in the land. As a result, they never possessed all of the allotted land.

 Our enemies, sin, death, Satan, flesh, and this world system that opposes God are defeated, but must be driven out of the believer’s life by them.

 (**1 Corinthians 15:50-58; Ephesians 6:10ff; Romans 12:1-2; Titus 2:11-14; Colossians 3;**

 **2 Timothy 2:1-7**)

 (Joshua 13:1-22, 34 Dividing the Land)

 Promised to the father Abraham (**Genesis 13:14-17; 15:18-21; 17:7-8; 22:16-18**)

 **Deuteronomy 31:7** Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and of good courage, for you must go with this people to the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it.

 **Deuteronomy 31:23** Then He inaugurated Joshua the son of Nun, and said, "Be strong and of good courage; for you shall bring the children of Israel into the land of which I swore to them, and I will be with you."

 Jacob

 **Genesis 28:13** And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I *am* the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.

 Isaac

 **Genesis 26:3-5** "Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. **4** "And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;

 **5** "because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws."

**II. The assurance of God’s provisions energizes courage. Vv.7-8**

 A. The **purpose** of being strong and courageous. V.7a

 This command to be strong and courageous is based on God’s provision of strength and power to succeed. This is a stronger exhortation that indicates that greater courage and strength of character would be required to obey God’s Word faithfully and fully than it would to win military battles.

 (Illustration: Martha and Mary)

 (**2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 5:12; Psalm 19:7-10; Psalm 119**)

 **Matthew 4:4** But He answered and said, "It is written,`Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

 **Nehemiah 8:1** Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that *was* in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel.

 **Nehemiah 8:3** Then he read from it in the open square that *was* in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people *were attentive* to the Book of the Law.

 **Nehemiah 8:8** So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading.

 **Ezra 7:10** For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do *it*, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.

 B. The **perseverance** of being strong and courageous. V.7b

 C. The **profitability** of being strong and courageous. V.7c

 D. The **practice** of being strong and courageous. V.8

 1. Practice letting the Word of God dominate your **speech**. V.8a

 (**Deuteronomy 6:7; 6:1-9, 10-19**)

 2. Practice letting the Word of God dominate your **mind**. V.8b

 **Psalm 1:2** But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

 **Psalm 119:97** Oh, how I love Your law! It *is* my meditation all the day.

 3. Practice letting the Word of God dominate your **behavior**. V.8c

 (**Deuteronomy 7:2-5; 31:22-30; 32:45-47**)

 4. Practice letting the Word of God dominate, drive, direct, and determine your life. v.8d

 Living out the practices above will guarantee prosperity and success in the new life of a new creation.

 (**2 Corinthians 5:17; Deuteronomy 28:1-6, 15-19; Ezra 7:10**)

 **James 1:22-25** But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves

 **23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; **24** for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. **25** But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

 **Joshua 23:6** "Therefore be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, lest you turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left,

 **Judges 21:25** In those days *there was* no king in Israel; everyone did *what was* right in his own eyes.

 Rejecting of God’s objective standard of righteousness and truth, people like the Israelites chose a subjective standard characterized by moral and spiritual relativism. This plunged the nation into centuries of religious apostasy and moral rottenness.

 (**Deuteronomy 29:1-9**)

 “Thy Word

 Thy Word is like a garden, Lord,

 With flowers bright and fair;

 And every one who seeks may pluck

 A lovely cluster there.

 Thy Word is like a deep, deep mine;

 And jewels rich and rare

 Are hidden in its mighty depths

 For every searcher there.

 Thy Word is like a starry host

 A thousand rays of light

 Are seen to guide the traveler,

 And make his pathway bright,

 Thy Word is like an armory,

 Where soldiers may repair,

 And find for life’s long battle-day

 All needful weapons there.

 Oh, may I love Thy precious Word;

 May I explore the mine;

 May I its fragrant flowers glean;

 May light upon me shine.

 Oh, may I find my armor there;

 Thy Word my trusty sword,

 I’ll learn to fight with every foe

 The battle of the Lord.”

 -Edwin Hodder, Sourcebook of Poetry

**III. The assurance of God’s presence energizes courage. V.9**

 The command does not minimize or dismiss the task God’s people face. They would still encounter giants, obstacles, paganism, immorality and fortified cities, but God’s presence would make the difference. God knows all about our personal human weaknesses, fears, faults, and feelings.

 Yet, we are commanded to be “in the world but not of the world.” Just as Israel was commanded to be in the land, but not of the land!

**Conclusion:**

**“Road or No Road:**  There is a story to the effect that a certain society in South Africa once wrote to David Livingstone, “Have you found a good road to where you are? If so, we want to know how to send other men to join you.”

 Livingstone replied, ‘If you have men who will come only if they know there is a good road, **I don’t want them**. I want men who will come if there is **no** road at all.’

 What a crying need there is for such men in the work of Christ today! …..

 Much of our current boom in religion is nothing more than spiritual aspirin. It doesn’t cost much, doesn’t do much, won’t hurt much and isn’t worth much.” – John F. Burkhart