

Hi KC Parents!

I've been reading the book of Joshua during my devotions, and what a remarkable source of encouragement it's been for me. In the first chapter alone, the Lord tells Joshua to "be strong and courageous", four times in 18 verses!

What amazes me the most is God's tenderness and care for Joshua in the midst of his fears and hesitations. He wants Joshua to be assured that he is the man for the task and that God has chosen him to lead the Israelite nation into freedom. He does not seem to be worried or nervous about Joshua's intimidations or inabilities, because he knows Joshua's heart and his willingness to obey and follow through on everything God tells him to do. (which he faithfully does throughout the book. Note to self: this really matters!).

In verse three, the Lord tells him, "I will give you every place you set your foot as I promised Moses".

In verse five, he says. "No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life".

In verse six, he says, "Be strong and courageous because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them."

In verse nine, he says. "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

And last but not least in verse 18, he says, "Be strong and very courageous."

Left to myself, my heart will always veer towards fear, doubts, insecurities, and intimidation. Whether it's at work or at home, I can always feel that I'm not enough. I need to go to battle against the lies that hold me captive and keep me from the promised freedom that's mine, as a child of God.

2020 has been a year that has shaken many of us. Fears, insecurity, and anxiety seem to be the new normal. But God's word still stands through the test of time. It's the one anchor we have to hold us steady in the midst of uncertain circumstances. Lord help us not be afraid. Help us to not be discouraged. Help us trust in your promises because when we do, it frees us from fear.

There are kingdoms to be conquered, whether it be fear, intimidation, marital issues, family dynamics, feelings of failure, fear for our safety, challenges, enemies, and weaknesses.

As Joshua stepped out in faith and obedience, all of heaven's power was at his disposal to conquer the kingdoms that God had led him to. The battle belongs to the Lord, and he promises to release the powers of heaven against the forces of evil in the heavenly realms, on our behalf.

It's interesting to note, that by chapter 10, Joshua himself, was telling the Israelites to be strong, to be courageous, and not fear! As he learned to trust in the Lord and rely on God in the midst of his weakness, he was then able to encourage others to do the same. My prayer is that we too can be used by God to encourage others.

So I say to you Don't be afraid. Don't be discouraged. For he is with you wherever you go!

Blessings,
Viv Stone