



Joshua

Exodus 17:8-16

The Amalekites

⁸Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. ⁹So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." ¹⁰So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. ¹¹Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. ¹²But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. ¹³And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

¹⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven." ¹⁵And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The LORD Is My Banner, ¹⁶saying, "A hand upon the throne of the LORD! The LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."

Numbers 14:6-10

The Spies

And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes ⁷and said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. ⁸If the LORD delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. ⁹Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them." ¹⁰Then all the congregation said to stone them with stones. But the glory of the LORD appeared at the tent of meeting to all the people of Israel.

Deuteronomy 34:9-12

Moses Gives the Mantle to Joshua

And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses. ¹⁰And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, ¹¹none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, ¹²and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

Joshua Chapter 1

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, ² "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. ³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. ⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. ⁵ No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. ⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

¹⁰ And Joshua commanded the officers of the people, ¹¹ "Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, 'Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.'"

¹² And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh Joshua said, ¹³ "Remember the word that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, 'The LORD your God is providing you a place of rest and will give you this land.' ¹⁴ Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land that Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but all the men of valor among you shall pass over armed before your brothers and shall help them, ¹⁵ until the LORD gives rest to your brothers as he has to you, and they also take

possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and shall possess it, the land that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise.”¹⁶ And they answered Joshua, “All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go.”¹⁷ Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you, as he was with Moses!¹⁸ Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and courageous.”

“What do you remember most about Joshua?” asked Levi.

Amattai thought for a moment. “He was the most humble and the most courageous man I’ve ever known,” replied Amattai. “His humility made him ruthlessly honest about himself. I was amazed at how plainly he talked about his fears and sins, what most men try to hide from each other.”

“Fears? I thought Joshua was fearless,” said Levi, surprised. “Well, he seemed fearless because he was so courageous. But he taught me a lesson about fear and courage that I’ve never forgotten.

“I had only been with the army a few weeks and hadn’t seen any real fighting yet. Six or seven of us untested warriors were sitting around a fire one evening talking about the impending battle against Aphek. We were all blowing a lot of brave-sounding hot air because none of us wanted to look like a coward, though inside we were all plenty scared.

“Joshua overheard us and stepped into the firelight. We all jumped up, embarrassed. And he said, ‘So, none of you young men are afraid to fight Aphek?’ We all glanced at each other and shook our heads — lying. Then he said, ‘Well, you’re all better men than I am. I frequently have to face down fear, even after all these years.’” Hearing this shook us bit. We all believed Joshua feared nothing.

“I can still see him staring into the fire and saying, ‘I’ll tell you when fear hits me. When I see a strong king and his army arrayed against us, all those swift chariots and the forest of spears. The LORD’s promises can just seem to drain out of my memory and I start thinking this battle is up to me to win. That’s when the doubts attack. I can doubt my judgment. I can doubt our strategy, our organization, our timing, our numbers. I can doubt our weapons. I remember Moses and can doubt my ability to lead. I can doubt the weather and our position. And at that point fear becomes my most dangerous enemy. It’s paralyzing.’

“Then he looked up at us and said, ‘That’s why the LORD has had to tell me many times to “be strong and courageous.” He knows the fears I’m vulnerable to. And what I’ve learned is this. “Be strong”: it requires real strength to remember what the LORD has promised to do for us and to move my trust off myself and back on him. And “be courageous”: it requires courage to act on what his promises tell me and not what my doubting fears tell me. It takes strength to trust the LORD and courage to obey him.’

“And when he turned to leave, he said, ‘You men may not struggle like me. But someday it may help to remember that courage is often not the absence of fear but the conquering of it.’

“I can tell you, Levi, that has helped me conquer a thousand fears,” Amattai said. Then, reaching over and placing an affectionate hand on the back of Levi’s neck, he said, “Son, that word is a weapon to always have with you, no matter what battle you’re fighting.”

Eight Things to Do When You're Afraid

1. Laugh at your _____.
2. Pray for the right _____. Psalm 119:32
3. Pray for _____. James 1:5
4. Pray for _____.
5. Stay in the _____. vs. 8
6. Take _____.
7. Do the _____ right thing.
8. _____ on the Lord. Ps. 27:14

Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Promise is not possession until aspiration has by faith become experiment. Possession is the key word in the book of Joshua. Faith appropriates while aspiration merely agrees and admires. We can always tell the difference between simply admiring God's promises and possessing them, by our action.

Alan F. Johnson

Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger men (women)! Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for powers equal to your tasks! Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle. But you shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself, at the richness of life which has come in you by the grace of God."

Phillips Brooks