

07252021 Faith starts when we believe God is who he is. Faith believes God is good.... Faith believes work all things to the good... Hope seeks that goodness in life's ups and downs.... By faith we believe by hope we wait to obtain....by perseverance we receive the promises...

Faith is lived by obeying God's directions "One Day at a Time" And I thank God for that because Living by Faith is messy. Because there are days when I am full of faith And Days when it is no where to be found...Days when we have faith to move mountains

And Days when our faith could be hid under a sesame seed

The longer you persevere, the more you trust in God, because you understand how limited your power, control and understanding is... the greater this understanding the better able you are to make wise choices.... and those wise choices are really to do all things God's way!!

- **What does persevering in faith look like? it looks like being a Joshua one of the ancients! Remember it was the promised land...the land promised to them by God forty years earlier to Moses ...yet up to this point not one inch of the promised land...have they possessed.**
- **Yet As a people individuals they had moved from 400 years of slavery to 40 years of freedom. they made many mistakes, some huge failures and some great accomplishments... and this time of persevering in freedom...prepared them for the next leg of their journey.**
- **They were now at the borders of this Promised Land. Their yearning for Egypt was past. All that remained was the conquest.**
- **and Joshua would be tasked with leading the Israelites into the promise land... he was in the are bracket between 68-78 years old...he had never led the Israelites before, though he was a leader in his tribe, and had spied out the promised land 38 years previously and gave a thumbs up to going after it...which is vastly different from actually go after it!**

While the book named after Him, focuses on Joshua, it does not introduce him. From Israel's exodus, he was already well known to the people of Israel. Going back to Exodus 17, we find Joshua assisting

Moses. And knowing something of his backstory helps us understand his role.

- **In Exodus 17 Joshua led the army of Israel to defeat the Amalekites, as Moses lifted his hands in prayer.**
- **In Exodus 24:13 Joshua joined Moses, Aaron, and the seventy elders on the mountain of God. He saw God, worshiped God, and ate the meal prepared by God.**
- **In Exodus 32:17 Joshua is on the mountain with Moses as he hears the people worshiping the golden calf.**
- **In Exodus 33:11 we learn that Joshua, Moses’s assistant, spent a great amount of time in the tent of meeting.**
- **In Numbers 13 Joshua is listed as one of the twelve spies sent into the land. He and Caleb were the lone voices urging Israel to go into the land (14:6, 30, 38; 26:6; 32:12; 34:16). As a result, they alone went into the promised land, while everyone else in his generation died**
- **Also in Numbers 13:16 Moses names Hoshea “Joshua.” It is critical for our understanding of Joshua’s role as a type of Christ that this title was given by Moses.**
- **In Numbers 27:18, after God told Moses he would not enter the land, Yahweh told Moses to set Joshua apart, for his Spirit was in him, and he would lead Israel into the land. Verses 22–23 show Moses and the priests laying hands on Joshua.**
- **In Deuteronomy (1:38; 3:21; 3:28; 31:1–8) Moses speaks often about Joshua taking his place as Israel’s leader.**
- **He even tells him to “be strong and courageous”(vv. 6, 7, 23).**

Deuteronomy 23:31 When Moses had finished giving these instructions to all the people of Israel, ² he said, “I am now 120 years old, and I am no longer able to lead you. The LORD has told me, ‘You will not cross the Jordan River.’ ³ But the LORD your God himself will cross over ahead of you. He will destroy the nations living there, and you will take possession of their land. Joshua will lead you across the river, just as the LORD promised.

⁴ “The LORD will destroy the nations living in the land, just as he destroyed Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites. ⁵ The LORD will hand over to you the people who live there, and you must deal with them as I have commanded you. ⁶ So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the LORD your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.” ⁷ Then Moses called for Joshua, and as all Israel watched, he said to him, “Be strong and courageous! For you will lead these people into the land that the LORD swore to their ancestors he would give them. You are the one who will divide it among them as their grants of land.” ⁸ Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you.”

^{Verse 23} Then the LORD commissioned Joshua son of Nun with these words: “Be strong and courageous, for you must bring the people of Israel into the land I swore to give them. I will be with you.” These words will repeat three times again in Joshua 1.

From these episodes, we learn that Joshua was both a spiritual leader, a military leader, and one equipped to lead Israel in Moses’s absence. **Yet, in receiving the name Joshua from Moses, he also is presented as Israel’s savior. Joshua means “Yahweh is salvation.”** In this way, Joshua is clearly a type of Christ. So what he did in leading the people...Jesus does for us!

- So Joshua after living 40 years in the desert with Moses... he persevered a long time...learned a lot, grew in faith and action... .. a whole new level of faith in action, which is called perseverance along with many new obstacles which would need great courage and faith to overcome...lay ahead of him and them.
- **They would need to go to the next level as the daily mana and quail would be ending as they would enter Canaan...a land already settled... they had not been a settled people before.....** now they would possess their own land...so many new changes they were about to embark upon... They would own homes, and property... all new to them...under a new leader.

- **It was a new season in their lives...Their faith and perseverance would need to grow!**
- **And they were terrified... you know anything we experience new...creates fear in us...it is something we have not known before...it is new...**

New is different ...different is scary...even good changes are scary for they have **imposing new obstacles which must be overcome...!**

In Deuteronomy (means the second Law) Moses reminded the next generatiuon as they prepare to enter the promised land... with a little more detail

DT 4:32 Ask now about the former days, long before your time, from the day God created man on the earth; ask from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything so great as this ever happened, or has anything like it ever been heard of? ³³ Has any other people heard the voice of God speaking out of fire, as you have, and lived? ³⁴ Has any god ever tried to take for himself one nation out of another nation, by testings, by miraculous signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds, like all the things the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes?

DT 4:35 You were shown these things so that you might know that the LORD is God; besides him there is no other. ³⁶ From heaven he made you hear his voice to discipline you. On earth he showed you his great fire, and you heard his words from out of the fire. ³⁷ Because he loved your forefathers and chose their descendants after them, he brought you out of Egypt by his Presence and his great strength, ³⁸ to drive out before you nations greater and stronger than you and to bring you into their land to give it to you for your inheritance, as it is today.

*DT 4:39 Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other. ⁴⁰ **Keep his decrees and commands**, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you*

and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the LORD your God gives you for all time.

Then reminds them they heard this

DT 5:22 These are the commandments the LORD proclaimed in a loud voice to your whole assembly there on the mountain from out of the fire, the cloud and the deep darkness; and he added nothing more. Then he wrote them on two stone tablets and gave them to me.

- **This word of commands and promises given to Moses which the people witnessed ... reminds us the Law of Moses was not restricted to commands; it also contained gracious promises.**
- **So, Moses received the Law from God; Joshua fulfilled the Law. This is vitally important for understanding the relationship between Moses and Joshua, as well as the superior ministry of Joshua to that of Moses.**

The people are now ready...as individuals, and a nation...to receive the promises of this special relationship to God ...and to each other ...and to the world...they had persevered...now moving forward would require a new level of persevering...and that is scary **These new truths we also need to embrace as we journey forward...in following Jesus...Yahweh saves!**

In the very first chapter we find Joshua was praying... communicating with God...he knew God and was talking to the Lord...and here is a truth...you will walk with God if you talk with God

- **Prayer is our highest and most effective use of energy... is the contemplation of the facts of life from the highest point of view...God's**
- **Prayer puts us in contact with God and places us in the position to receive his perspective and guidance....**

*NLT JOS 1: 1 After the death of Moses the LORD's servant, the LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant. He said, ² "Moses my servant is dead. Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them. ³ **I promise you** what I*

promised Moses: *‘Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you—⁴ from the Negev wilderness in the south to the Lebanon mountains in the north, from the Euphrates River in the east to the Mediterranean Sea^[a] in the west, including all the land of the Hittites.’⁵ No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you.*

Do you really think Jesus can be with you and not have with him the resources necessary to accomplish the task? Really?

JOS 1:6 “Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them.⁷ 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.⁸ 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.⁹ 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.”

All these raw materials are based on the foundation of ...**Faith...**

That if we act upon what we know...that knowledge combined with action will bear fruit... *obey and leave the results to God!!!!*

Recap: For Joshua to succeed this is what he must persevere in doing!...

1. **Own the call... he is the one!! you must own your call...**
2. **Believe The Lord would be with you like he was with Moses...Joshua saw this in action for forty years...that is his human example of God's faithfulness...God will be with him just like that...believe it because you have seen it! I am not asking you to believe on that which you have seen and experience...**
3. **Obey God's command him given 3x to be strong and courageous...**
4. **why? to persevere he would need to be strong and courageous...because his fears will seek to make him quit...and if he did he would overcome his fears...**
5. **He is told to obey the word revealed to Moses and written down...meditate on it daily ...and he would be successful!**

Only three things could defeat him... the same that can derail him from the faith to persevere to the finish..

1. Being Afraid...which has the idea of Being terrified... scared stiff...a mind set or outlook so fearful as to become frozen... immobile consumed with catastrophic imaginations....focusing our thoughts on the absolute worse that could ever possibly happen. Meditating on the wrong messages

- Fear is the father of missed opportunities and the grandfather of regret...first you miss the opportunity then you regret it...perseverance is the antidote
- **And Fear of criticism (people), fear of failure, fear of the past (our history), fear we cant do it, fear of succeeding in the future, these head the list of perseverance killers...**

2) Giving into discouragement...being able to be deterred...talked out of moving forward either by words or hindering circumstances or opposition...losing courage

- Forgetting God was with Him..... thinking he was alone or had to do it in his own strength
- **Hope is what keeps one moving forward...a heart that says I do not want to miss out by not stepping out.**
- **Perserverance is what enables one to understand that failures, mistakes and setbacks are a part of success.**
- Each one of us is on the next step of our personal development don't give up before reaching the goal...and know much learning and change must occur in the journey on the way to the destination...

3) Failing to Study this Book of Instruction continually....deviating to the left or right...will surely lead to failure

- *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.***

Persevering in Faith change you...Who you are even changes

In Joshua 1 Moses is called “the servant of the Lord,” while Joshua is called Moses’s “assistant.”

Joshua 1:1 After the death of Moses the LORD’s servant, the LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ assistant.

Yet, by the end of the book Joshua also receives the title “Servant of the Lord” (24:29). 35 or so years later...

Joshua 24:29 After this, Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of 110.

know this my friends...By faith we believe by hope we wait to obtain...by perseverance we receive the promises

end

PH 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably **more than** all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

- **It is his power working in us and for us ...which will accomplish all His will toward us!!**

- **Practice Believing this until you become it, by knowing it experientially!!**

When we walk with God, you walk with confidence in his sustaining love, and concern for your life...and you walk with a limp knowing full well your utter dependence on his grace to overcome your weaknesses and your continual need to lean on him for direction in life.

It doesn't make sense to confidently walk with a limp...but when you walk with God that is exactly how you ought to appear...a mix of humility and confidence, humble because we are greatly forgiven and confident because we are lavishly loved.

You learn to confidently walk with a limp... (Demonstrate...shoulders back and limp...)

I pray that we would learn to walk confidently but with a limp, confident in our Lord's sustaining love, and concern for your life...and in standing for him...and it would be with a limp humbly knowing full well your utter dependence on his grace to overcome your weaknesses and your continual need to lean on him for direction in life.

- For God knows how to finish a walk with him...in spite of our limping...walking with your shoulders up in confidence...Our God will complete all that he has started...

yet had never seen by a leader who had never led...

It takes courage on everyone's behalf...

- It was a new season in their lives...
- ... they had wonderful knowledge but were fearful...
- you know anything we experience new...creates fear in us...it is something we have not known before...it is new...
- new is different ...different is scary...even good changes are scary!!!
- so what does the Lord say...

*Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.***

What Joshua needed to know when he was about to enter into a new season of life, is the same truths we need to embrace as we enter into a new year...

1...Prayer produces courage

Joshua was praying... he knew and was talking to the Lord...and here is a truth...**"you will walk with God if you talk with God"**

- Prayer is our highest and most effective use of energy...

#2 ... True courage has great humility...it is absent of bravado...and machismo...

Humility is a strand between leader and follower that underscores one common element: our humanity.

- true courage is humble because it knows there can be failure...so it is best entered into with concern
- true courage is humble... because it knows there are factors outside of ones control, knowledge and experience.
- true courage is humble...because it requires of one to step out and do something they do not feel qualified to do...
- true courage is humble... because it knows success is dependent on more than yourself... on more than ones will...other people and other resources are needed
- So it is a we rather than I thing...

Today...

3 True Courage always starts with an individual...

The call of the apostle Matthew is one such example...

- I relate probably more to Matthew than any of the other apostles He probably grew up in a very religious family....like myself

end

(Mark 9:22-24). We can start by asking God to help us to have more faith. Then we can ask him for the courage to hope for a better future.

 Faith starts when we believe God is who he is.

Faith believes God is good....Hope seeks that goodness ...perseverance is the path to receiving the promises

Faith and hope are seen clearly in 2 Corinthians 6:10 "Having nothing, and yet possessing all things." By faith we believe by hope we wait to obtain.

Faith is lived by obeying God's directions "One Day at a Time" And I thank God for that because Living by Faith is messy.

Because there are days when I am full of faith
 And Days when it is no where to be found

Days when we have faith to move mountains
 And Days when our faith could be hid under a sesame seed

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the more you persevere, the more you trust in God, because you understand how limited your power, control and understanding is... the greater this understanding the better able you are to make wise choices.... and those wise choices are really to do all things God's way!!

“When you fear Missing out on what God has for you...More than your fears...you will persevere!

- **Fear is what keeps one from taking that risk... Fear is the enemy of perseverance...**
- **Why? well what does Fear of criticism (people), fear of another failure, fear of the past (our history) and fear of the future... head the list of perserverance killers...**