

THE OVERCOMING WORD OF GOD

Text: Joshua 1:6-10

Key Word: Overcoming

Key Thought: The Word of God Helps Us to Overcome Impossible Odds

The history of our world is the history of great leaders. Joshua had been in training for many years. His time had now come to be one our world's greatest leaders. Thirty-eight years had passed since he had walked in the land of Canaan to bring back a report that the people rejected. This time was different. Along with time came maturity and a greater zeal to see the Word of God completed.

As we install Pastor Vic to now be officially recognised as an associate pastor at Fountaingate, I'm going to talk about how God convinced Joshua to lead the people across the Jordan River into the promised land. The determining factor was the Word of God.

Why Is the Word So Effective?

I. THE WORD MAKES US POWERFUL/NOT POWERLESS (Joshua 1:7a)

II. THE WORD MAKES US PASSIONATE/NOT PASSIVE (Joshua 1:7b, 8a)

III. THE WORD MAKES US PROSPEROUS/NOT PAUPERS

I. THE WORD MAKES US POWERFUL/NOT POWERLESS (Joshua 1:7a)

"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you;"

Joshua 1:7a

The Word is powerful. Anyone who has the Word of God abiding in them become fill with that power. Our words become God's Word. We may have answers but God has THE ANSWER. The ungodly are so afraid of the power of the Word that they are making every attempt possible to remove it from influential places (schools, courts, government, financial institutions, and churches).

The power of God's Word is clearly seen in the way it transforms a broken life into one that is vibrant and meaningful. I've read many books but no book offers me such life-changing truths as the Word of God.

We need to look into God Word in such a way that we ask ourselves **"How must I change to come in line with God's Word?"** If we approach it this way we will become powerful.

I. THE WORD MAKES US POWERFUL/NOT POWERLESS (Joshua 1:7a)(Contd.)

*** I remember as a new Christian that a special speaker was invited to our church to conduct a series of services. I've never heard a man with such a vast memory of Scripture.

There was hardly a line that he spoke without quoting a portion of Scripture. I realize that he must have devoted much of his time to Bible memorization.

His blend of Scriptures made his messages some of the most powerful ones I've ever heard. He was a walking, topical Bible. His understanding was not limited to a few Bible truths. His words were powerful because God Word is powerful. ***

The Word of God

1. Cleanses a young life - Psalm 119:9
2. Convicts of Sin - II Kings 22:9-13
3. Gives Peace - Psalm 119:165
4. Inspires Faith - Romans 10:17
5. Makes us Wise - Psalm 119:99
6. Gives Life - II Corinthians 3:6
7. Causes us to Rejoice - Psalm 119:111

No other writing in our world can do what God's Word does. We should not expect them to. **No words are greater than God's words.** They are creative, profitable, full of light and wise counsel. They will build up the broken hearted. They offer peace to a mind in turmoil.

No wonder God made sure that Moses passed on the book of the Law (Torah) for Joshua to carry while he made his conquest into the land of Canaan.

II. THE WORD MAKES US PASSIONATE/NOT PASSIVE (Joshua 1:7b, 8a)

"do not turn for it to the right or the left"

Joshua 1:7b

There are many things that are written that need to be revived or rewritten. **God's Word never required a second edition due to changes.** We know with assurance that God will not give us a new Bible. This is it in its fullness. Anyone who says they have a new or fuller revelation from God is a liar. God has warned us never to add or subtract from his Word.

A true Bible student is person of great passion to follow it to the letter whether you like what it says or not.

II. THE WORD MAKES US PASSIONATE/NOT PASSIVE (Joshua 1:7b, 8a)

"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it."

Joshua 1:8a

When we begin reading the Bible it makes us want to read it more. It also puts a desire into our hearts to talk about it with others. The Bible is not a book for speed readers. **It is not as important that we get into the Book but rather that IT gets into US.**

"Other books were given for our information. the Bible was given for our transformation."

** Every time a little boy went to his friends house, he found his friend's grandmother engrossed in her reading of her Bible. Finally his curiosity got the best of him. *"Why do you suppose your grandmother reads the Bible so much?"* he asked
"I'm not sure," his friend replied, *"but I think it's because she's cramming for her finals."* **

*** An African woman was asked if she enjoyed reading her new Bible. She replied, *"I'm not reading this Book. This Book is reading me."* ***

There are 4 things we need to do with the Word of God if we have a passion for it:

1. **Admit it** as the Word of God
2. **Commit it** to our hearts and minds
3. **Submit** our will to it
4. **Transmit it** to the world

Joshua's success was determined by how he approached the Word of God. If he was passive he would always to conquer. If he was passionate he would succeed.

III. THE WORD MAKES US PROSPEROUS/NOT PAUPERS (Joshua 1:8b)

"Then you will be prosperous and successful."

Joshua 1:8b

There is a lot of teaching about prosperity. It's interesting that some of the preachers who began in the prosperity teaching have now turned away from it. They saw that their teaching was very appealing to our human desires but did very little ultimately for the kingdom of God. It simply made "Fat Cats."

The word for "**success**" in the Bible also means "**to be prudent**" or "**to walk circumspectly (sensibly)**." The term "**Then you will be prosperous**" is literally "**Then you will have the power and ability to live.**" There is a great reward in keeping to God's Word.

From the day that God began to write His Word, it has never sided with sinners. Consider Noah, the Exodus, Jericho (Ai), Samuel, Nehemiah, Daniel, Jesus, Paul. God always prospers those who follow His Word.

"A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you."

Psalm 91:7

Biblical prosperity is measured by the way that we live not by what we receive. There are a lot of people who have prospered in this world's goods but are spiritual paupers. The Word of God makes us rich in the important things.

"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."

Colossians 3:16

The prosperity that God wants to give is to show us how to live a daily walk that is pleasing to Him. Our soul will prosper if we walk according to the Word of God.

Joshua was having his foundation set BEFORE crossing the Jordan River. The Word of God was to be that foundation. If we expect to go ahead for God we must allow the Word to make us **powerful, passionate and prosperous**. There is an allotment for God's people. Have you heard His voice? Are you preparing to go? God is drawing His people to the water's edge. The camp is stirring with excitement. The battle plan is being drawn up. Prepare for victory!

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Date: Sept 19/21

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: With Our Hearts (We Believe) - F

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