

Joshua 1:6–9:

6 Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

7 “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Commentary:

In these verses, three times Joshua is commanded by God to be strong and courageous. God is preparing Joshua for battle to win Caanan, a land He has promised to His people.

Advent, for us, is also a time of preparation. It is the time we Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus. Holiday visits, festive entertainment, visits from family and friends, all this requires much planning and careful preparation. Stir in school homework, Sunday School plays, sports and band commitments, and jobs for all! How will shopping, baking, and decorating all be done on time?

Don't be afraid to ask for help. Be strong enough to admit you need help putting up lights or preparing your secret recipes. Have the courage to ask God for guidance when meditating on who would enjoy helping. Don't hesitate to ask a friend or family member; they can always decline! Most are pleased to be of service to others.

My oldest daughter gave me a Bible verse keychain fob she purchased at the church bookstore for Christmas one year. Did my little daughter know then how much that verse, Joshua 1:9, would help me over the years? Maybe. Or, it could have been the lovely person running the bookstore or her Sunday School teacher helping her pick out a gift for her harried mother. No matter, it is a precious possession. Many times I have remembered that Christmas as I look at the keychain fob. Slow down, have courage, do not be afraid; God is with you.

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