

Be Strong

In Deuteronomy 31:1-8, Moses gives advice to Israel and Joshua.

- Be strong
- Don't fear
- The Lord is with you
- The Lord will not fail or forsake you

In Joshua 1:5-9, the Lord says similar things to Joshua the new leader. In addition, God tells Joshua

- Not to turn aside from God's commandment – but to obey it
- To meditate on God's word day and night. (Love God's word.)

Joshua takes heed to God's word in the crossing of Jordan.

- Joshua 3:7-9 “..Come hither and hear the words of the Lord..”
- 4:8 “..as the Lord spake unto Joshua..”
- 4:10 “..everything was finished that the Lord commanded..”
- 4:15-17 Joshua obeyed God's instruction

Joshua followed God's instructions carefully in the destruction of Jericho and was victorious. Joshua 6

- 6:27 “..So the Lord was with Joshua; and his fame was noised throughout all the country.”

Joshua could be strong because he was obedient to the Lord and trusted Him.

Joshua failed to listen to the word of God before fighting the enemies at Ai. Joshua 7:2,3

Joshua 7:4,5 shows the people not strong but fleeing their enemy. They could not enjoy the Lord's strength because there was an accursed thing amongst them. Joshua 7:11-13 Someone had disobeyed the word of God (See 6:18) The sin was dealt with in 6:24,25

God told Joshua to not fear and gave instructions on how to defeat Ai. (8:1,2) Joshua was strong and obeyed (8:26,27).

Joshua read God's word to all the people (8:34,35) He knew this was very important in order to be strong.

When five kings came up against Israel, Joshua could be strong because the Lord fought was on their side.

- 10:8 “..Fear them not: for I have delivered them..”
- 10:10 “And the Lord discomfited them.. and slew them.. and chased them.. and smote them..”
- 10:11 “..the Lord cast down great stones..”
- 10:12 “..the Lord delivered up the Amorites..”
- 10:14 “..the Lord fought for Israel.”
- Read 10:24,25. Joshua was strong because he knew he could trust God. It was only because of God, that Israel and Joshua could be strong. (10:40-42)

When Joshua was old and well experienced, he gave some advice to Israel similar to what he had been given by Moses and God. Be courageous; obey; don't be distracted (23:6), Don't do the things the nations do (23:7), Cleave to the Lord (23:8), It is God who gives strength and victory (23:9), Love the Lord (23:10), God keeps his word, we can trust him (23:14)

1 Corinthians 16:13 “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”

Ephesians 6:10 “..Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.”