

Sermon Study Guide



#1: Basis of Courage

Series: *Courage in the Crucible*

January 10, 2021 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

In this study on the book of Joshua, we learn how we can stand courageous when trials, difficult situations, opposition, and inevitable changes surround us.

Reflect

What is one thing you courageously stand for? What makes you courageous to stand for it?

Read and Discuss

Scripture

Joshua 1:1-18

Discussion Questions

True courage is not the absence of fear, but the *mastery* of fear. That mastery of fear comes when you understand, accept and apply Biblical truths in your lives. These truths become the basis of the courage that shines through in times we face uncertainties and oppositions. Read Joshua 1:1-18.

1. **Basis of Courage #1: GOD'S CHARACTER (v. 1-6).** Why was the entrance of the Israelites to the Promised Land delayed? How do you think Joshua felt as the successor of Moses, one of Israel's greatest leaders? What assurances and promises did God give to Joshua to encourage him? Do you always fulfill the promises that you make? Why or why not? How is God's character different from people's character? Would you trust God for who He is so that you could be strong and courageous in the midst of uncertainties and oppositions?
2. **Basis of Courage #2: GOD'S WORD (v. 7-8).** How should Joshua use God's Word in taking on the monumental task of leading God's people? What does it mean to meditate on God's Word day and night? How does knowing the truth from God's Word give courage and boldness in times of uncertainties?

3. **Basis of Courage #3: GOD'S PRESENCE (v. 9).** What promise did God give to Joshua in this verse that gave him strong and courageous in fulfilling his task? Read Psalm 139:7-12. How does this passage explain the meaning of God's omnipresence? What uncertainties do you expect to happen in your life this year? Why should God's constant presence in your life inspire you to be confident even in the midst of uncertainties you may face? How do you know that God's presence is with you?
4. **Basis of Courage #4: GOD'S APPOINTMENT (v. 10-19).** How did the leaders of the tribes respond to the leadership of Joshua? How did their response encourage Joshua to be strong and courageous? What are the promises to God's appointed--His children through adoption through Christ--in the following passages: 1 John 5:18; Colossians 1:12-13 and Psalm 91:9-11? How does the knowledge that you are God's child, enable you to be strong and wise?

Respond

In Walk: Courage in the face of uncertainty and opposition does not come from foolishly thinking we can tackle it ourselves with our own ability, wisdom, and strength. Courage comes from God. We base our courage on His character, His Word, His presence, and His appointment of us as His child. Are you ready to tackle the uncertainties and oppositions that this year may bring? How will you let God enable you to be strong and courageous?

In Prayer: Heavenly Father, You are my awesome God who knows me more than I know myself. Thank You that You are able to help me in all aspects of my life. Thank You that You know what lies ahead of me. Even if I don't really know what the future entails, I can be at peace, strong, and courageous because of You. May you give me the wisdom and confidence I need as I walk with You in this time of uncertainty. In Jesus' name. Amen.