

## Transition – Strong and Courageous for the Future

Dr. John Carmichael

[Jos 1:1-9 NASB95] 1 Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant, saying, 2 "Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. 3 "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. 4 "From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory. 5 "No man will [be able to] stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. 6 "Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 "Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. 8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. 9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

- Today, North Church stands at the edge of a new chapter. We honor our history as Evangel North Church, and we deeply appreciate our connection with Evangel World Prayer Center and Dr. Bob Rodgers. God has done amazing things. Today, we are North Church.
- Israel was at the edge of the Promised Land. Moses had passed, and Joshua was stepping into leadership. Joshua mourned Moses. Yet, he was called to get up and go forward.
- God's word to Joshua was clear: "Be strong and courageous" (vv. 6, 7, 9).
- But now, God is calling us forward with faith.

### What does Joshua 1 say to us as we transition to North Church?

Here are 5 things Joshua 1 speaks to us as we transition to North Church.

#### I. God's Promises Are Sure

- a. [Jos 1:3 NASB95] 3 "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses.
- b. God had already given the land. Israel only had to step into it.
- c. [2Co 1:20 NASB95] 20 For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.
- d. God has given us this church, this vision, and this community. Our part is to step forward in obedience.

#### II. God's Presence Is Certain

- a. [Jos 1:5 NASB95] 5 "No man will [be able to] stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.
- b. Joshua didn't have to walk alone. God promised His abiding presence.
- c. [Mat 28:20 NASB95] 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
- d. In this transition, God's presence is not leaving us. The same Spirit that moved as Evangel North Church is moving now as North Church.

#### III. God's Word Is Steadfast

- a. [Jos 1:8 NASB95] 8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that

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is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

- b. Success for Joshua came from faithfulness to God's Word.
- c. [Psa 119:105 NASB95] 105 Nun. Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.
- d. Though our name changes, our mission and our beliefs remain the same. We are still anchored in Scripture, Spirit-filled, Christ-centered, and committed to revival, healing, and harvest. **Go to <https://northchurch.me/what-we-believe/>**

### IV. God's Call Demands Courage

- a. [Jos 1:9 NASB95] 9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."
- b. God knew Joshua would face battles, so He commanded courage.
- c. [2Ti 1:7 NASB95] 7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.
- d. This transition will bring challenges: financial, spiritual, organizational. But God is with us, and He is calling us to have courage.

### V. God's People Must Secure the House

- a. [Jos 1:6 NASB95] 6 "Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.
- b. To possess the land, Israel had to step in faith and take hold of it.
- c. Our "land" includes this church property. That's why we are launching the "Secure the House" campaign.
  - i. Ultimate Goal: \$1.55 million.
  - ii. Immediate Goal: \$300,000 in the next 60 days to secure financing.
- d. [Hag 1:8 NASB95] 8 "Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified," says the LORD.
- e. Everyone's participation matters. Equal sacrifice, not equal gifts.

- When God calls His people into a new season, He provides His promise, His presence, and His power, but He calls us to be strong and courageous.
- Like Joshua, we are stepping into a new season:
  - God's promises are sure.
  - God's presence is with us.
  - God's Word has not changed.
  - God calls us to be strong and courageous.
  - God is calling us to Secure the House.
- This move is God, and it is good. It will take faith and courage from all of us.
- Consecration Call - Come forward, dedicating yourselves to the future of North Church.
- Courage Call - Pray for boldness to step into new levels of faith and ministry.
- Secure the House Call - Pray over your role in the capital campaign. Bring pledge/commitment cards at the altar as an act of worship.
- Prophetic Declaration Together: "We are North Church. This is God's house. We are His people. The best is yet to come!"