

February 13, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom:

Joshua 1:9 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. (NIV)

Earlier in verse five of this same chapter, we read a very encouraging statement: ***No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. (NIV)*** Now in this passage, the LORD is transferring the leadership role that once was Moses's. He has passed away and now the LORD has chosen Joshua to lead the people of God into the 'promised land.' You might think that this was a heavy burden to carry for Joshua; and you would be right. And so the wonderful LORD of all declares to Joshua that he can move forward with the blessings and protection of God.

Did you realize that the very same God Who spoke these words to Joshua, is also speaking to you? Just as He was watching over His people, He is also watching over you. He has a plan and purpose for you. He will never give up on you. It is interesting that the LORD said to Joshua, 'be strong and courageous; do not be discouraged.' I can tell you that discouragement does not come from the LORD. It is a weapon of our adversary. He cannot stand for us to be encouraged, and so he continually throws discouraging thoughts in our direction. We must put on the full armor of God and take a stand against the evil one and his demons. Then we will be able to stand firm and know the freedom of following the Master, wherever He leads us.

Dear LORD, thank You for the encouraging power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. If it were not for You, we would surely cower away from any struggles. But instead, You have given us the Spirit of power, love and self-discipline. In Jesus Name, Amen