

Joshua's Great Commission

- I. The path out of despair is to hear the word of God and know that He is compassionate, He is sovereign, and He is faithful to fulfill all His promises (vs 1 – 5a).
 - i. God has determined to fulfill His decrees through the faithful actions of His chosen people. The giving of the land is a done deal, but the people are required to engage in the battle.
 - ii. He is not dependent on us “Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise...”
 - iii. Here we have an outline for the entire book of Joshua:
Chapters 1-5 = entering the land (vs 2). Chapters 6-12 = taking the land (vs 3) Chapters 13-21 = dividing the land (vs 4)
Chapters 22-24 – Joshua's final days (vs 5a)
- II. God's favorable presence is the source of our strength when we commit our hearts to wholehearted obedience to His word (5b –9)
 - i. Almost a perfect chiastic structure.
 1. A: “I will be with you”
 2. B. “be strong and courageous”
 3. C. wholehearted obedience to His word
 - ii. “I will be with you”
 1. “Fear not for I am w/ you” – Issac 26:22; Moses 3 (who am I) & 4 (mouth); Numbers 14; Deut 20:3-4, 8; 31:6-7, 23 (Psalm 23:4, Is, Jer, Mary Luke 1:28-29)
 - vi. Obedience takes first place in what God wants from us. The whole of Scripture testifies to this fact. Gen 2:16 = obedience to the command was the 1 thing in the garden. Rev 12:17; 14:12-13 descriptive. What was the bridge that closed the chasm between Holy God and sinful man? The obedience of Christi Rom 5:19; Phil 2:8; Heb 5:8-9. You may ask, “what about faith & love?” All are proven by obedience to God's word.

- vii. Obedience demonstrates our faith: see Heb 11 “Hall of Faith” is examples are full of faithful obedience; James 2 “Show me”
 - viii. Disobedience is unbelief. - Heb 3:12-19
 - ix. Love is shown by our obedience: 1 John 2:5-6; 2 John 6; John 14: 18-21
- III. When we determine to obey immediately and completely, God gives us both the strength and the courage we need to obey. (10-18)
- i. Pattern for success in the book of Joshua: The LORD commands Joshua, Joshua commands the people, the people obey and the LORD faithful to His word (deviation= disaster)
 - ii. Joshua demonstrates his faith by assuming command (he is strong and courageous)
 - iii. Transjordanian tribes (see Numbers 32) = would be most likely to rebel
 - iv. God confirms His promise with the people’s response