



# Charting the Course:

a devotion by Chuck Hall

## BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

I was encouraged recently by a phone call from Morris Gurr, a pastor-friend from Georgia. He called especially to share with me “a word from the Lord” that he had received for me. He ended his exhortation by quoting Joshua 1:5-9:

***5 No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you. 6 Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. 7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. 8 Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. 9 This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.***

That portion of scripture has been very meaningful to me through the years, but it became even more so when Morris shared it with me. You see, before he called, I had been meditating and praying over Joshua 1:5-9 for the past couple of weeks. In fact, I had preached on that very passage the Sunday before Morris called! Hallelujah! God knows where we are and what we are going through! He is very conscious of our struggles, doubts, and fears. I believe God is saying to us, “Be strong and very courageous, for I am with you wherever you go. No one will be able to stand against you. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you! I will not leave you nor forsake you.”

I believe that God will bring you into “the land” and fulfill all His promises to you. Take them by faith as you pray and wait upon the Lord. You may have to fight to see some of the promises fulfilled, just as Joshua did. But stand firm and hold on to what God has promised, and you will inherit the land. Obey and do all that He has commanded you to do. Don’t turn away to the right or to the left. Be obedient. Move forward with assurance that God is with you. He will help you to be successful in all that He has commanded you to do.

Remember to say what God has said. Don’t repeat the lying thoughts that the devil puts into your mind. Counter his lies with the promises of God by speaking **out loud** what God has promised you! Meditate on His promises to you; pray them out loud. Remind the Lord and yourself of what He has spoken to you. Then you will prosper and be successful.

Be strong in the Lord and very courageous. Don’t be afraid. Don’t be discouraged. The Lord is with you wherever you go! He will help you. He will not leave you nor forsake you. He is always with you, always loving you, and always watching over you.

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