

Ghosts of Christmas Past: Letting Go of Fear (Joshua 1:1 - 9)

Begin your time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to lead you in truth and teach you through God's Word. As you complete each devotional, ask God that you would not be just a hearer of the Word but a doer also. (James 1:22) Be in continual prayer for those around you who do not yet love Jesus.

Monday

Read Joshua 1:1 - 9 in ESV and CSB

"Worry reveals our allegiances. Fear and worry are not mere emotions; they are expressions of what we hold dear." -Edward Welch

1. What do we learn about God?
 - Look for God's *character* (who he is, what he is like).
 - Look for God's *conduct* (what he is doing).
 - Look for God's *concerns* (what things, events, people, he is concerned about).
2. What do we learn about people?
 - Look for aspects of what it means to be *created in God's image*.
 - Look for the *fallen condition*.
 - Look for *how God's people should live*.
3. What do we learn about relating to God?
 - Look for things to *praise and thank God for*.
 - Look for sin to *confess and repent*.
 - Look for *promises and truths to believe*.
4. What do we learn about relating to others?
 - Look for how we should *interact with and treat others*.
 - Look for ways to *pursue reconciliation with others*.
 - Look for specific ways to *love, serve, and care for others*.

Tuesday

Read Joshua 1:1 - 9 in ESV and CSB

What is the theme of the passage? What primary message is God telling Joshua about his fear?

What can you learn about your own fears by reading this passage?

Use these four questions to help bring out more application to today's passage.

1. What does God want me to *think/understand*?
2. What does God want me to *believe*?
3. What does God want me to *desire*?
4. What does God want me to *do*?

Wednesday

Read Joshua 1:1 - 9 in ESV and CSB

The gospel is the answer to insecurities, paralyzing anxiety, and life-sucking fear. The blessed reality of Christ in us, the hope of glory, tenderly blasts the brick and mortar around our hearts like dynamite. He loves us too much to let any walls remain that keep us from believing we're safe apart from his protection. -Sophie McDonald

1. What is the connection between Bible reading (v.8) and getting past your fears, to arriving in a place where you are strong and courageous? (v.9)

REV DAILY DEVOTIONAL

2. According to this passage, how does God protect us from fear and feelings of abandonment? What steps does God give Joshua to overcome fear?
3. Would you say you meditate on the word of God? If not, what would that look like for you?
 - Solitude? Being alone with God and asking him to speak to you.
 - Silence? Turning off your devices, praying and listening to God speak through his word.
 - Move? For some people meditating on God's word means you're moving. You're taking a run or walking in the peace and quiet of the mountains.
4. How would verse 5 encourage someone who struggles with fear?
5. The hope of Israel wasn't in their own ability to bring down their enemies and gain ownership over the land of Canaan. What was the hope of Israel according to this passage?

Thursday

Read Joshua 1:1 - 9 in ESV and CSB

The keys to safety and prosperity are found in the precious words of our God. Our hearts are prone to trust in other gods, to try and manufacture protection and success on our own. But God is calling Israel — and us — to seek and obey him in his word, knowing that he is all-wise, all-loving, and always faithful. He knows what's best for us. He really does. And he wants to lead us into life, if we're willing to look and look and look at his book — day and night — and are careful to walk in it. -John Piper

1. One of the key factors to Joshua's courage is God's promise to never leave him. In other words, God promises us his presence in every season of life. How does this help you fight back fear?
2. Can you think of ways that our society needs the message and hope of Joshua 1:1-9, that God will never abandon those who follow and trust in him?
3. Verse 7 says "do not turn from it." What are ways that you easily turn away from God? Do you think you would benefit from this kind of devotion to God's word?
4. "When God appointed Joshua to succeed Moses as leader of Israel, Joshua's task was a daunting one. It was his job to march Israel into Canaan and take over the Promised Land. God had "given" this land to Israel, but powerful peoples still lived there. This time God wasn't going to send plagues to drive them out. He was going to send Israel to drive them out. That meant fighting. And fighting is a fearful thing." (Jon Bloom) Driving out fear doesn't take a confident swagger that you muscle up before battle; it takes deep trust in the promises of God.
5. Read these passages as encouragement to trust deeply in God's promises:
1 Timothy 6:12; Acts 1:8; Deuteronomy 31:6; Psalm 27:14; Proverbs 3:5-6; 1 Chronicles 28:20; Ephesians 6:10-18

Friday

Read Joshua 1:1 - 9 in ESV and CSB and review your answers from this week's questions.

"The Bible is indispensable to the Christian life. Without the written Word, we simply could not know the Incarnate Word." - John Piper

1. What truths impacted you the most within this week's passage?
2. What aspect of God's character has this passage shown you more clearly?
3. What one step will you take in light of these truths?

Saturday

Read John 2:1 - 11 ESV

"We would never produce the full range of biblical prayer if we were initiating prayer according to our own inner needs and psychology. It can only be produced if we are responding in prayer according to who God is as revealed in the Scripture. . . . Some prayers in the Bible are like an intimate conversation with a friend, others like an appeal to a great monarch, and others approximate a wrestling match. . . . We must not decide how to pray based on what types of prayer are the most effective for producing the experiences and feelings we want. We pray in response to God himself."-Tim Keller

Catch up on any days you may have missed throughout the week.

Pray for our service tomorrow, that God would rescue us all from the delusions that we can make it on our own. Pray that our hearts would be flooded by the overwhelming power of God's presence and that God would speak through the preaching of His Word, setting the captives free and strengthening our faith. Pray that God would open someone's eyes while the gospel is being preached, that they would come from death to life in Jesus.