

# Do Great Things for God

## Introduction:

1. We are a few days into a new year – 2019. Challenges await you ... if not, you need to choose some.
  - a. What do you need to do ... what will you do ... to make 2019 exceeding magnificent to the Lord?
  - b. If you aim for nothing by letting life happen, then you will hit nothing, and it will be your fault.
  - c. No one plans to fail, but any that fail to plan will fail. Managing life sets goals and finishes them.
  - d. God has given you goals already – you should know them, prioritize them, and complete them.
  - e. What you already do well is not a challenge; stop vain thoughts of basking in a few good deeds.
  - f. What does not cost effort or money is not a worthwhile challenge, for God knows it is too easy.
  - g. Think about areas of your life where you have slipped, are slipping, or fear slipping from virtue.
  - h. Think about areas of life you are uncomfortable with, that cause fear, that you try to ignore, etc.
  - i. Think about where you may procrastinate and why. These are the challenges courage can crush.
  - j. God listed duties in the Bible and measures of them, but you may also add outside challenges.
  - k. God never asked for a temple ... but David chose a huge challenge voluntarily over retirement.
  - l. No matter the challenge, you must define it and appropriate success, like God did Joshua below.
  - m. *A Mighty Man's Life* (outline of life duties for examples of challenges) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/a-mighty-man.pdf>.

Bible Reading	Daily Prayer	Attendance	Revive Marriage	Child Training	Hospitality
Job Trajectory	Systematic Savings	Debt Eliminated	Better Fitness	Church Volunteer	Witnessing
Education	Housecleaning	Papers Organized	Aged Parents	Will & Cemetery	Weight Loss
House Repair	Cut Off a Hand	Replace a Friend	Speak Publicly	Love of Christ	Reduce Care
Family Devotions	Enhance Resume	Bible Memory	Systematic Giving	Honor All Parents	Get a Promotion
Spiritual Reading	Mood Management	Honor Rulers	Driving Habits	Substance Abuse	Fear Phobias
Power Couple	Two-Duty Children	Rule Inputs	Ruling Speech	Promote Prayer	Promote Singing
Walk with God	Visit Widows	Active Peacemaker	Love/Serve Others	More Conventional	Talk about God

2. What made William Tyndale do what he did? He chose a difficult challenge that cost him his life.
  - a. You have an English Bible, the King James Version, that is about 90% of his sacrificial work.
  - b. Did he succeed, though it cost him his life? He is greatly honored in heaven and on earth.
3. Joshua is a great Bible character, measured by accomplishments, courage, commitment, and faith.
  - a. He has a book of the Bible named after him, which is the history of taking the land of Canaan.
  - b. Joshua is also named Hoshea (Deut 32:44), Oshea (Num 13:8), Jehoshua (Num 13:16), Jeshua (Neh 8:17), and Jesus (Acts 7:45; Heb 4:8) in the Bible, crushing ignorant skeptics about names.
  - c. Moses changed his name from Oshea to Jehoshua (Num 13:16), from Deliverer or Savior to Jehovah is the Deliverer or Savior, by virtue of Jeho (Jehovah) + Shua (salvation).
  - d. Our Lord's name was Joshua in Hebrew/English, but Jesus in Greek/English (Ac 7:45; Heb 4:8).
  - e. Some try to escape the error about Goliath (II Sam 21:19; I Chr 20:5) by making different events.
4. Joshua had distinguished himself before God and the nation of Israel by deeds before taking Canaan.
  - a. Shortly after the exodus, he led Israelite forces against Amalek at Rephidim (Exodus 17:8-16).
  - b. He accompanied Moses at least part way up Mount Sinai to meet God (Ex 24:12-14; 32:17-18).
  - c. Joshua had privileges with Moses to be near the LORD, and he loved to be so (Exodus 33:11).
  - d. He was one of the original 12 spies; Caleb and he trusted God against Israel (Nu 13:8; 14:6-10).
  - e. For this great act of faith, God promised Joshua and Caleb to enter the land (Numbers 14:30,38).
  - f. Moses publicly ordained Joshua to the work he would do after his death (Nu 27:18-23; De 1:38).
  - g. God gave Joshua a personal charge by Moses just before the death of Moses (Deut 31:14-23).
5. Consider the challenge Joshua faced to replace Moses and lead Israel across Jordan and into Canaan.
  - a. Moses was a fabulous leader, in the sight of God and men, mighty in word and deed everywhere.
  - b. Moses had God's presence and power unlike anyone before or after until Jesus and His apostles.
  - c. Israel had proven over the forty years Joshua assisted Moses to be a stubborn, rebellious people.

- d. Joshua had seen the nation's perversity and intentions to kill Moses and he on several occasions.
  - e. The land of Canaan had well-fortified cities with prepared armies – seven nations and 31 kings.
  - f. There were giants in the land that had greatly intimidated their bravest recon scouts with Joshua.
  - g. Israel was inexperienced in warfare without established military structure, weapons, engines, etc.
  - h. Two and one-half tribes had already chosen to live on the east of Jordan threatening their unity.
  - i. How could Joshua possibly get those difficult people to do what Moses could not get them to do?
- 6. We benefit by learning God's rules to overcome such challenges and achieve prosperity and success.
    - a. God spoke to Joshua and told him what to do to prosper in his huge, challenging undertaking.
    - b. God is our most loving Father, and He wants us to succeed; the Bible is His manual of wisdom.
    - c. He wants you to live and succeed at life without confusion, doubt, fear, intimidation, worry, etc.
    - d. Attempt great things for God; expect great things from God. How can you possibly lose doing it?
    - e. If you start forward, trusting and obeying God courageously, He will bless more (Ps 27:13-14).
    - f. You have more than Joshua – you have the Spirit of God and Christ in and with you (Phil 4:13).
  - 7. 2019 is the only year that counts right now – the past is irrelevant; you may not be alive tomorrow.
    - a. Paul did not care about past accomplishments; he knew he had not achieved what God expected.
    - b. He knew running a race did not depend on past laps but on the ones remaining (Phil 3:12-14).

***1 Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,***

- A. Israel relied on Moses 40 years – their great champion against Pharaoh and with God.
  - 1. Moses was exceptional in Egypt in knowledge, achievements, words (Acts 7:22).
  - 2. He returned to Egypt at 80 with miracle power and Jehovah's most glorious name.
  - 3. He then seemed to singlehandedly destroy Pharaoh, his army, and plunder Egypt.
  - 4. He talked with God like friends, got the Ten Commands, saved Israel many times.
  - 5. What Israel needed, Moses had provided, from war to worship to water to manna.
  - 6. Moses was God's faithful servant – meek, merciful, loyal, close, tender, zealous.
  - 7. If nothing else, think about what Moses could do and did do with his rod for Israel.
  - 8. For earlier sin, Moses died before they got Canaan (Nu 20:12; De 3:23-28; 34:1-4).
- B. The death of Moses was a traumatic event for Israel; the Lord buried him (De 34:5-8).
  - 1. Try to imagine the fear and intimidation Joshua must have had to succeed Moses.
  - 2. God chose Joshua to replace him, a hard thing, but gifted him for it (Deut 34:9-12).
  - 3. God has not called you to do anything He has not gifted you to be able to perform.
  - 4. But you must apply yourself diligently from heart outward with offered wisdom.
- C. Wise rulers, fathers, masters, and pastors think of succession, for it is very important.
- D. Every believer should crave to know what God said to prepare Joshua for his hard job.

***2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.***

- A. The opening words – *Moses my servant is dead* – had to strike fear in Joshua's heart.
  - 1. How could he, Joshua, lead this nation that the great Moses had difficulty leading?
  - 2. Once Moses was dead, buried, and mourned, it was time for Joshua to lead Israel.
  - 3. Leaders cannot procrastinate, if responsibility has been given and the time arrives.
  - 4. Every groom must realize he is responsible for two souls and take godly charge.

5. Every father must realize he is responsible for three or more souls and lead right.
  6. Every grandfather should be a family leader by example, instruction, and warning.
- B. The task that had not been done for 40 years, which Israel first rejected, was at hand.
1. The national goal for Israel was to take possession of Canaan, the Promised Land.
  2. They were all to take it, which was a project of leading a nation on a difficult trip.
  3. Recall how Israel had refused to take it earlier and had conspired against leaders.
  4. Furthermore, three of the tribes did want to cross Jordan but to possess east of it.
  5. The Spirit used the present tense to indicate the timing, blessing, and assistance.
- C. When God says to do something – do not think about it, fear it, or hesitate to obey it.
- D. When God says He will do a thing – believe it without regard to experience or fear.

### ***3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.***

- A. The place where they would tread is defined and limited in the context, all of Canaan.
1. The territory taken by Joshua was about 10% of territory under David/Solomon.
  2. Total was from Euphrates to the Mediterranean to the Nile and beyond the Jordan.
  3. What a Homestead Act! America gave 420k square miles to 1.6M claims (1862).
  4. What a Homestead Act! Wherever Joshua led Israel by foot – it was theirs to keep.
  5. Joshua had to be fearless to get the prize, like Americans with the Homestead Act.
- B. Moses told Israel while alive about the land that was theirs and its boundaries (Exodus 23:31; Numbers 34:1-13; Deuteronomy 11:24-25; Joshua 14:7-9).
- C. God gave Israel all the land – no promises are left (Joshua 11:23; 21:43-45; Neh 9:8).
1. More about land promises ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/heresies/dispensationalism.php>.
  2. More about land promises ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/abrahams-land.pdf>.

### ***4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.***

- A. Where was Joshua standing when God spoke this? East of Jordan from Jericho (1:2).
- B. The boundaries described in various passages generally make the Euphrates the east, Desert of Zin the South, the Mediterranean the West, and Syria/Lebanon the north.
1. Thus, the south border went to the wilderness of Zin and the north border Lebanon.
  2. The wilderness is Zin, the southern border, through which they had just wandered.
  3. *This Lebanon* was visible as the northern border, east of Jordan, north to Hermon.
  4. God added to the south and north borders the eastern and then the western ones.
  5. Three tribes wanted land on the east of the Jordan – Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh.
  6. He promised to give *all the land of the Hittites* to Israel, a mighty nation itself.
- C. Did Israel get it? Yes, at various times, in various ways, by their conditional covenant.
1. The land was always conditional, regardless of language, just like circumcision.
  2. Joshua captured and divided 6,000 square miles (about 8 times Greenville County).
  3. By David and Solomon, Israel ruled 60,000 square miles from Egypt to Euphrates.

4. More about land promises ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/heresies/dispensationalism.php>.
5. More about land promises ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/abrahams-land.pdf>.

***5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.***

- A. Was God with Moses? In glorious fashion in many events; Joshua could depend on it.
  1. Joshua had seen Moses' enemies, from Pharaoh, Og, and Sihon to Korah and men.
  2. He was one of two faithful spies when Israel wanted to stone them (Num 14:10).
  3. God had delivered Moses in every situation he faced and destroyed his enemies.
- B. He had already seen the fierce inhabitants and walled cities in Canaan (Nu 13:28-33).
  1. Joshua knew the inhabitants were terrifying and well prepared to resist invasion.
  2. But Joshua had witnessed God overthrow the far mightier Egypt by Moses alone.
  3. Moses defied Pharaoh and won; surely God could defeat Canaan's minor kings.
- C. He was named right: it was Moses' LORD Jehovah that would deliver and help him.
- D. God promised Joshua what every man wants to hear, but we have heard (Heb 13:5-6).
  1. Confused persons will bring up the martyrs, but God was with them more than any.
  2. Many wish for Solomon's dream, but you have been promised as much (Jas 1:5).
- E. Three witnesses of reversal of fortune ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/reversal-of-fortune.pdf>.

***6 Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.***

- A. God exhorted Joshua four times to be strong and courageous for the task (1:6,7,9,18).
  1. What does it mean to be strong? Have faith, man up, lead out front, do not waver.
  2. What does it mean to have courage? Fear nothing, take risks for God, boldly strike.
  3. There is no need to make these terms mutually exclusive, but do see their nuances.
  4. Paul gave all us N.T. Christians a very similar, general exhortation (I Cor 16:13).
  5. We are in a war for our souls against a three-fold enemy conspiring for your ruin.
- B. The Bible has many examples of men putting both strength and courage into practice.
  1. Abraham drafted his confederates and took on four kings with 318 trained servants.
  2. Jonathan and armorbearer gladly attacked a garrison of Philistines on high ground.
  3. David ran to meet the giant Goliath without weapons or shield ... but for the cause.
  4. Zerubbabel and Joshua were strong to rebuild the temple against great opposition.
  5. Esther was strong to confront Ahasuerus about his most-trusted Persian advisor.
  6. Jesus our Lord faced the angry mob, Annas, Caiaphas, Pilate, Herod, Pilate again.
  7. Paul had all men forsake him, but he did not retreat from testifying to Nero twice.
- C. Compare these words to David's to get God's help when courageous (Ps 27:13-14).
- D. God has given you challenges; every person has several; be strong and courageous.
  1. If God our Father declares something will happen or work, go forward confidently.
  2. For example, honor your parents regardless of any feelings, and He will bless you.
  3. For example, train your children regardless of any opinions, and He will bless you.

4. When God swears, believe it; He has sworn to save you; believe it (Heb 6:11-20).

***7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.***

- A. God exhorted Joshua four times to be strong and courageous for the task (1:6,7,9,18).
1. What does it mean to be strong? Have faith, man up, lead out front, do not waver.
  2. What does it mean to have courage? Fear nothing, take risks for God, boldly strike.
  3. There is no need to make these terms mutually exclusive, but do see their nuances.
  4. Paul gave all us N.T. Christians a very similar, general exhortation (I Cor 16:13).
  5. We are in a war for our souls against a three-fold enemy conspiring for our ruin.
- B. What was the greatest danger to Joshua (and us)? Compromise the Bible in any way.
1. God promised to do His part, but His blessings depended on Joshua's obedience.
  2. God's earthly blessings, success in great projects, depend on your full obedience.
  3. Challenges, opposition, and threats will rise against any man trying to obey God.
  4. Choosing to obey the Bible has enemies; devils and men hate the just (Pr 29:27).
  5. We are in a war for our souls against a three-fold enemy conspiring for our ruin.
- C. What was the greatest rule of prosperity (for both)? Obey the Bible exactly as given.
1. It first and least reveals perfect wisdom; it last and most brings supernatural favor.
  2. All nations have marveled at the wisdom of God's word as it pertains to all topics.
  3. The first rule of Bible Economics is to obey God, for He must bless to be blessed.
  4. When Israel obeyed God and His word, like under Joshua, they prospered greatly.
  5. When Israel disobeyed God and His word, like after Joshua, God tore them apart.
- D. Adam and Eve sinned, which cost them catastrophically naturally and three deaths.
- E. Moses before he died had charged Joshua to keep all the law of God (Num 27:15-23).
- F. God is specific about holding precisely to His laws (Deut 5:32-33; 12:32; Matt 28:20).

***8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.***

- A. Leaders – ruler, master, husband, father, pastor – must have the Bible in their mouths.
1. This was not a suggestion for Joshua, but rather a direct charge and commandment.
  2. There is no other book, education, or experience a man needs as much as the Bible.
  3. Moses wrote scripture's value to Israel (Deut 4:5-8; 5:32-33; 6:24-25; 32:46-47).
  4. God's word is in your mouth to lead and teach, correct others, defend your actions.
  5. For it to be in your mouth, it must be first in your head and heart to speak it rightly.
  6. You must keep it there in spite of any opposition, distractions, or circumstances.
- B. How do you get the Bible in your mouth to lead/teach others and defend your choices?
1. The Bible must be in your heart to direct your tongue (Psalm 119:11; Luke 6:45).

2. You must study and apply it to be able to speak it (Heb 5:12-14; Prov 22:17-21).
  3. After sanctifying God in your heart by exalting Him as glorious as He is, worthy of obedience and able to help, be ready to calmly reason from scripture (I Pet 3:15).
  4. Here we see the one Holy Spirit inspiring these words like David's (Psalm 1:1-3).
  5. This leadership trait comes one way – consistent reading, meditation, application.
- C. It is only by regular reading and meditation of God's word that you can keep all of it.
1. We encourage our children to read and memorize it so they will always know it.
  2. We must have the godly attitude of David toward all commands (Psalm 119:128).
  3. We cannot limit ourselves – consciously or unconsciously – to favorite rules only.
- D. Joshua's prosperity and success depended on these three things stated in this verse.
1. The things stated again – constant or regular reading, meditation, and application.
  2. Israel's kings were charged to have God's word for these things (Deut 17:18-20).
  3. His prosperity and success were to lead Israel effectively and take all of Canaan.
  4. This rule applies to all leaders and men – prosperity and success is by the Bible.
  5. Prosperity and success are growing in favor with God and men to fulfill your life.
  6. The majority of men are abject and shameful failures as measured by these criteria.
  7. Again, compare how similar the wording by the Spirit here to David's (Ps 1:1-3).

***9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.***

- A. God repeated His clear command (1:6-7). Strength and courage were not suggestions.
- B. God exhorted Joshua four times to be strong and courageous for the task (1:6,7,9,18).
1. What does it mean to be strong? Have faith, man up, lead out front, do not waver.
  2. What does it mean to have courage? Fear nothing, take risks for God, boldly strike.
  3. There is no need to make these terms mutually exclusive, but do see their nuances.
  4. Paul gave all us N.T. Christians a very similar, general exhortation (I Cor 16:13).
  5. We are in a war for our souls against a three-fold enemy conspiring for our ruin.
- C. The opposite of these terms is to be fearful or be intimidated by danger or difficulty.
1. Most men are reluctant and timid for big tasks; Joshua had seen much for 40 years.
  2. Peter warned women against amazement about being perfect wives (I Peter 3:1-6).
  3. Stop thinking about what could go wrong and instead do what God said is right!
- D. Faith trusts God's help and chooses to do what seems difficult or impossible with zeal.
1. It is a choice to let circumstances frighten or intimidate you. Walk on water! Do it!
  2. It is a choice to let moods or phobias control or rule you. Conquer the challenge.
- E. The LORD Jehovah would be with Joshua; He personally reassured Him of it, like us.
- F. Truly courageous men are those who know the Lord is with them and will help them.

***10 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying,***

- A. Here is where you should see the fulfillment of God's word being in Joshua's mouth.

- B. After God commanded and exhorted Joshua to his duties, Joshua did what God said.
  1. Leadership starts by submitting to God, trusting God, and obeying God to others.
  2. There is no reason for procrastination if the Lord has promised help and charged.
  3. If you know you should do something better in your life, the cure is to start, now!
- C. Joshua, and Abraham before him, were two great leaders (Gen 18:19; Joshua 24:15).

***11 Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.***

- A. Joshua did not ask the officers or the people: he commanded rulers to command them.
  1. This was not like a little family or business; this was a mongrel mass of 3 million.
  2. The chain of command will work by a Spirit-led man following the Spirit's word.
- B. Manna was provided daily, but the people also scavenged from the land (Deut 2:6,28).
  1. They needed food ready to continue eating without need to stop for preparation.
  2. Manna was about to end (5:10-12); God's provision will match your obedience.
- C. The Jordan was overflowing (3:15), but they did not need Army Corps of Engineers.
  1. How in the world would this huge nation get across Jordan with barges or bridges?
  2. What did it take for Jordan to pile up rushing water? A step in the right direction.
- D. What the nation would not do under Moses, Joshua ordered them to do in three days.
- E. Most wives and children will follow a man that is right with God and takes charge.

***12 And to the Reubenites, and to the Gadites, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, spake Joshua, saying,***

- A. Joshua handled a delicate matter that proved his leadership and God's help for unity.
- B. If this issue was handled poorly, if differences divided Israel, there would be trouble.
- C. Three tribes had chosen under Moses to be content with land on the east of the Jordan.
- D. The terms of this agreement between three tribes and Moses is good reading (Nu 32).

***13 Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, The LORD your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land.***

- A. God and Moses had agreed to allow them to take their inheritances on the east side.
- B. However, the warning had been made that they must help the other tribes take Canaan.
  1. The exchange between Moses and the tribes is precious (Numbers 32), like here.
  2. First, the two tribes came to Moses and princes begging for east of Jordan (32:1-5).
  3. Second, Moses punished them hard by comparing them to evil forebears (32:6-15).
  4. Third, they gently approached Moses and princes and promised help (32:16-19).
  5. Fourth, Moses warned them with well-known words to keep their duty (32:20-24).
  6. Fifth, they replied they understood the warning and would perform it (32:25-27).
  7. Sixth, Moses told Joshua to allow them this privilege, if they helped (32:28-30).
  8. Seventh, the two tribes stated a third time their commitment to do so (32:31-32).

- 9. Eighth, Moses gave the land east of Jordan to them for their inheritance (32:33).
- 10. The character of these men is precious – the kind of character men crave to find.
- C. The two tribes already had their rest and land – their Canaan – right where they were.
- D. The two tribes already had help of the ten getting their land, so the exchange was fair.
- E. It is important to remember what God has said – both His promises and His precepts.
  - 1. Your greatest leverage is always God’s word – so only marry one that fears God.
  - 2. Your greatest leverage is always God’s word – so teach children the fear of God.
  - 3. Namedropping is powerful – starting with God’s name, then the great Moses, etc.
  - 4. Recalling promises is wise for the hope and reward of obedience (Eph 6:2-3; etc.).

***14 Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle, shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side Jordan; but ye shall pass before your brethren armed, all the mighty men of valour, and help them;***

- A. See comments on 1:13, based on the exchange they had with Moses earlier (Num 32).
- B. The two tribes were safe, for those not in the army stayed; only 40,000 left (4:12-13).
  - 1. For melancholies that fret about details, any fear about those behind was unbelief.
  - 2. God had already given them assurances for similar circumstances (Exodus 34:24).
- C. Namedropping can be powerful – starting with God’s name, then the great Moses, etc.
- D. Praise is also effective, as Joshua here described their men as mighty men of valour.
- E. Never forget the wasted chapter of Romans 16 and all its commendations and praise.

***15 Until the LORD have given your brethren rest, as he hath given you, and they also have possessed the land which the LORD your God giveth them: then ye shall return unto the land of your possession, and enjoy it, which Moses the LORD’S servant gave you on this side Jordan toward the sunrising.***

- A. See comments on 1:13, based on the exchange they had with Moses earlier (Num 32).
  - 1. The two tribes already had rest and land – their Canaan – right where they were.
  - 2. The two tribes already had help of ten getting their land, so the exchange was fair.
  - 3. This is brotherly love and one another duties working for greater good (Eph 4:16).
- B. Namedropping can be powerful – starting with God’s name, then the great Moses, etc.
- C. Promise of future good is wise and effective – the goal was to enjoy your possession.

***16 And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go.***

- A. Love the endorsing words in these sentences using the singular pronoun for Joshua.
- B. This is the character of great men – do anything or go anywhere a leader might ask.
- C. Every wife and child should respond like this to a man right with God taking charge.
- D. A wife or child resisting a husband or father under conviction will answer God for it.
- E. When good, godly leaders have these kind of followers, nothing will be impossible.

**17 According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the LORD thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses.**

- A. They said, We see no difference between Moses and you. We will obey the same way.
  - 1. True submission does not bring up negative comparisons but only positive ones.
  - 2. There are times for promises, which these three tribes gave to Joshua their leader.
- B. When you commit yourself to follow a man, whether a wife or children, those under rule should pray God will be with their man to make the relationship godly and right.

**18 Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage.**

- A. Here is commitment! Joshua, if any of our brethren rebel against you, we will kill him.
  - 1. Godly wives support husbands likewise – promising unity to him against children.
  - 2. Godly children support parents likewise – promising support against child rebels.
  - 3. The only condition for total commitment was for Joshua to be courageous for God.
- B. Note the singular pronouns repeated several times for total loyalty to Joshua himself.
  - 1. Note glorious confirmation of Joshua’s authority that this endorsement gave him.
  - 2. Note the glorious way God saved Joshua from a very disastrous division in Israel.
  - 3. As promised, our faithful God blessed Joshua greatly as he obeyed courageously.
  - 4. The stupendous miracles following at Jordan and Jericho followed his leadership.
- C. God will equally help any man, woman, or child that will take on a challenge for Him.
- D. God exhorted Joshua four times to be strong and courageous for the task (1:6,7,9,18).
  - 1. This exhortation came from the mouths of three risky tribes, by God’s preparation.
  - 2. What does it mean to be strong? Have faith, man up, lead out front, do not waver.
  - 3. What does it mean to have courage? Fear nothing, take risks for God, boldly strike.
  - 4. There is no need to make these terms mutually exclusive, but do see their nuances.
  - 5. Paul gave all us N.T. Christians a very similar, general exhortation (I Cor 16:13).
  - 6. We are in a war for our souls against a three-fold enemy conspiring for our ruin.

**Conclusion:**

- 1. David was in bad straits at Ziklag, but he encouraged himself in God for the challenge (I Sam 30:6).
- 2. He wrote Psalm 18, which is filled with significant challenges overcome with God’s help (Ps 18:29).
- 3. He wrote Psalm 27, which closes with a precious promise to those that take courage (Ps 27:13-14).
- 4. What duties has God assigned you? You can do them, if you follow His job description for Joshua.
- 5. **Just do it!** is the long-time slogan of the pagan, tree-worshipping Nike company, but it works here.
- 6. You must be dedicated to learning the word of God, obeying it, and speaking it, without variation.
- 7. Based on God’s promises and the certainty of His words, you are to be strong and very courageous.
- 8. Then you need to get to work and do what God has commanded you. Christians do not procrastinate.
- 9. Are you a husband, father, master, servant, ruler, student, pastor, or such like? Do like Joshua did!
- 10. What duties can you assume? Choices like David to build? To be great for the Lord and His people?

**For Further Study:**

- 1. *A Mighty Man’s Life* (outline of life duties for examples of challenges) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/a-mighty-man.pdf>.
- 2. *Running Your Race* (slides from men’s meeting about Christian excellence) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/running-your-race.pdf>.

3. *When Things Seem Hopeless* (sermon outline based on David at Ziklag) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/when-things-seem-hopeless.pdf>.
4. *Reversal of Fortune* (slides about three witnesses that give Christians hope) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/reversal-of-fortune.pdf>.
5. *What About the Land?* (Bible proof against Dispensational Zionism) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/heresies/dispensationalism.php>.
6. *Exceeding Magnifical* (sermon outline of David's temple) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/church/exceeding-magnifical/sermon.php>.
7. *Greatness by a Great Cause* (slides for men about David's viewpoint) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/greatness-by-a-great-cause.pdf>.
8. *Is There Not a Cause?* (sermon outline of David's godly viewpoint) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/is-there-not-a-cause-2.pdf>.
9. *Make Your Life Count* (slides for sermon about measuring your life) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/make-your-life-count.pdf>.
10. *What Is a Great Church?* (slides for sermon about church duties) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/what-is-a-great-church.pdf>.