

Pastor's Ponderings

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"Yes! You Can!"

by

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No one will be able to stand their ground 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 will lead my people to possess all the land I swore to give their ancestors. ⁷Be strong and very courageous. Obey all the laws Moses gave you. Do not turn away from them, and you will be successful in everything you do. ⁸Study this Book of the Law continually. Meditate on it day and night so you may be sure to obey all that is written in it. Only then will you succeed. ⁹I command you—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:5-9 (NLT)

In these verses, God is preparing Joshua to "inherit" command of the Jewish people from Moses. Moses has completed his task of leading the people out of Egypt. Now it is God's calling on Joshua's life to lead the people into the Promised Land. These verses remind us of God's promises to be present, to empower, and to enable. Presence. Power. Provision. These are the same three things God promises you and me also!

Do you know God has a special calling for you? It is to lead a Friend, Relative, Acquaintance, or Neighbor to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. You are **called, commissioned, and commanded** by God to share the Gospel (Good News) Message.

All Christians are **called** to salvation and to reach out with the salvation message to others. Ephesians 1:11 says, "*Furthermore, because of Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us from the beginning, and all things happen just as he decided long ago.*" God has called you to

inherit eternal life and to share that inheritance. Just like God chose and called Joshua to lead people into the Promised Land, God has called you to lead others to Christ.

God **commissioned** you to reach out to others. Mark 16:15 says, "And then He told them, *"Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere."* Of course, this is the Great Commission. The "He" in this verse is God's Son, Jesus Christ. You have been commissioned by the Savior Himself to go and share the Good News.

You have been **commanded** to share your faith with those who don't yet know Jesus as Savior and Lord. In Jude 1:3 we find these words inspired by the Holy Spirit through the pen of Jude, "*Dearly loved friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the truth of the Good News. God gave this unchanging truth once for all time to his holy people.*" Jude is saying we have the truth and we must share it.

Are you giving all you can to fulfill God's call, commission, and command on your life? Is there someone, somewhere in your life who needs to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? What are you going to do to reach that person for Jesus?

What would have happened if Joshua did not believe God's Word to him? What would have happened if Joshua believed God's Word, but did not obey God's Word? Would God's people have inherited the Promised Land? Of course not. God's people only receive God's promises when they believe and obey.

There you have it. Simple, straight forward, no turning back, share the truth, "on a mission from God" attitude. No feeling unworthy, unqualified, or unable. You are promised just like Joshua was. God will be present. God will empower you. God will provide you with everything you need to accomplish your mission. The only real question is "Are you willing?"

God knows you can and now you know. **"Yes! You Can!"**