

Joshua 23:1-8: Be Courageous & Hold Fast.

1-3: Joshua, in his old age, gathers the leadership of Israel together to give them a farewell address, to communicate to them the things that are, to his heart, the most important for them to hear.

Joshua begins his address by giving glory to God. It would have been easy for Joshua to focus on what he had done as a military leader...But he is far more interested in glorifying God than talking about himself.

4-5: In the same way, God gives every believer an inheritance. We have been blessed ... with every spiritual blessing ... in Christ (*Ephesians 1:3*), and God has a definite part for us to play in coming to possess that inheritance.

I. 6-7: Be courageous -

Courage (also called bravery or valour) is the choice and willingness to confront agony, pain, danger, uncertainty, or intimidation.

“Courage is doing what you're afraid to do. There can be no courage unless you're scared.” Eddie Rickenbacker,

“I would define true courage to be a perfect sensibility of the measure of danger, and a mental willingness to endure it.” W.T. Sherman.

They/we need to be courageous so they can be obedient. Following God and His word isn't something for the faint of heart.

There's a story of a man who bragged that he had cut off the tail of a man-eating lion with his pocket knife. Asked why he hadn't cut off the lion's head, the man replied: "Someone had already done that." Adrian Rogers.

II. 8: Stand fast -

This is to keep one's stand in the faith/in God.

Jeremiah 8:5 - *Why has this people slid back, Jerusalem, in a perpetual backsliding? They hold fast to deceit, they refuse to return.*

Job 2:9 - *Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!”* **Job 27:6** - *My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go; My heart shall not reproach me as long as I live.*

John 6:67 - *Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?” But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*

Philippians 4:1 - *Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.*

2 Timothy 1:13 - *Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.*

2 Thessalonians 2:15 - *Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.*

Hebrews 10:23 - *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*

As we hold fast on to God, we will continue to see great things as He works in and through us.

Baby Dedication: Josiah Mwesigwa Seviiri.

1 Samuel 1:11 - Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."

Psalms 127:3 - Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb *is* a reward.

Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

Matthew 19:14 - But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Ephesians 6:4 - And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.