

God's Calling Requirements

(Part 1)

"1 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. 3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Great Sea on the west. 5 No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. 7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:1-9)

The chosen message today is from the book of Joshua. Moses the servant of the LORD led the people from Egypt out from slavery that they were suffering under Pharaohs hands and delivered them from the oppression of the Egyptians. Moses took 2-3 millions of the people of God out of Egypt escaping from Pharaohs army under God's mighty hand of guidance and protection. God was with Moses and supported His leadership. He was with His people against Pharaoh of Egypt; He opened the red sea and led them on a dry land but when Pharaoh Army entered the sea, He brought the water back on them and no one of them escaped. But God delivered His people and brought them out on a safe ground. Moses led the people of God for 40 years in the desert and he brought them to the border of the promise land. At this point Moses service ended, he died and buried by God. Therefore somebody should continue the task to lead the people and bring them into the promise land. There is a vacant place need to be filled with a suitable person. For this reason God continually calling people because there is a work need to be done and a task needs to be finished. You who read the message are one of those whom God is calling.

Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide, was chosen for this task. Being Moses aide he knew from Moses what God's vision is and what are His commands and what God's requirements are. Joshua was a man who knew the truth and goes along with Moses and agrees with the vision that God entrusted to Moses. Joshua became Moses aide and he was chosen to succeed Moses because he was a man of faith. Among the twelve men that was sent by Moses to spy and explore the land, only Joshua and Caleb they brought a good report and they encouraged the people that God will give to them the land if He is pleased with them. But the other men discouraged the people. Joshua had faith in God because he was willing to obey God and walk in His ways and believed that God will fulfill what He had promised. People fail to have faith in God because faith in God requires obedient acts and submission that people not willing to follow.

God had sent His Son the Lord Jesus Christ to save us from sin and death. Jesus died on the cross for our sins; He was buried and rose from the death on the third day to give us eternal life, we who believe in Him and follow His steps in our lives. God is calling us to inherit eternity with Him and to call others and bring them to Him to inherit eternal life. But God's calling required a genuine, sincere faith and obedience so we can lead others. Jesus said a blind cannot lead a blind. You ought to be an obedient person in order for you to lead others in the path of God.

God said to Joshua, *"Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them."* The statement that we want to emphasize on here is *"Get ready."* God's calling needs alertness, vigilance and diligence. *"Get ready"* to have faith in God and believe on His Word and Promises. *"Get ready"* to obey God and to observe His Word and commands. *"Get ready"* for the hard work and the great task of God. Now here we want to emphasize that God's calling is not a journey that is smooth and easy and it is not the task that will be achieved without sweat or tears. But hard work and struggle with many forces in order to overcome. But remember you are not alone, God is with you, as He promised, *"I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

God asked Joshua that he is going to lead the people to cross the Jordan River. The people were around 2-3 million population, with all their belongings are required to cross the river. At that time there were no bridges and there were no airplanes and the people of God had no ships to travel with. In addition to this obstacle at the next bank of the river there are the people of the land whom the people of God will engage later on in a battle to drive them out and settle in their land. So from one-side families, women, children, old people, many things needs to be carried, as well as their animals, cattle and sheep. On the other side of the equation are the Jordan River with its flooded water and the enemies that are waiting ahead of the people. All these things were in the head of Joshua when God called him. You just imagined many things with many details in your head need to be arranged and go along the vision of God and the task that needs to be accomplished through you. But take courage, you are not alone God is with you.

God's calling requires courage, faith, obedience, as well as planning, wisdom and readiness to fight and sacrifice and stand firm in faith until God would fulfill His noble purpose in our lives.

My Dear and Beloved: "I will give you every place where you set your foot." God's calling requires claiming the land physically. It required moving physically, claiming the promises of God, and reaching the goals that the vision of God set before us to achieve. You need to get ready. Therefore wake up, be sober, be man of courage, be strong, be ready to take the step of faith and willing to obey and take the responsibility and the task to lead others into the promise land as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thanks for Your Word and Your precious promises. Thank you for your calling to me. Lord equip me and train me more, and fill me with your Holy Spirit to walk in the truth and to lead others into your kingdom. Father I ask you to give me Your wisdom to enlighten my mind and inspire my thoughts with things of yours. This is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.