

Sermon Notes | 02222026 | BE STRONG | The Well Community Church – Indian Service

Greetings in the name of the LORD and Savior Jesus Christ!

Welcome to the well community church – Indian Service

BE STRONG

Joshua chapter one opens not with celebration, but with loss. “After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua...” The greatest leader Israel had known was gone. The man who stretched out his staff over the Red Sea was gone. The one who spoke face to face with God was gone. The visible pillar of leadership had been removed. When something significant ends, it can create uncertainty. Joshua had walked in the shadow of Moses. Now he must stand in the responsibility of leadership. Transition exposes our insecurities. It reveals whether our confidence was in a person or in God.

The Lord immediately redirects Joshua’s focus. “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan.” God does not allow Joshua to remain frozen in grief. He calls him forward. Strength often begins with movement. Strength refuses to stay paralyzed yesterday. God’s purposes continue even when seasons change.

Then comes the command: “Be strong and courageous.” It is repeated three times in this chapter. When God repeats something, it is because it is essential. Strength would be required not only for battle, but for obedience. It takes strength to lead people. It takes strength to remain faithful. It takes strength to believe God when the outcome is not yet visible.

But notice that the command is surrounded by covenant promise. “I will give you every place where you set your foot... No one will be able to stand against you... As I was with Moses, I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Strength is not rooted in personality; it is rooted in presence. God does not say, “Be strong because you are capable.” He says, “Be strong because I am with you.”

Joshua’s strength would not come from military strategy. It would come from divine companionship. The foundation of courage is the assurance of God’s nearness.

Even Joshua’s name is prophetic. In Hebrew, his name is Yeshua — the same name as Jesus. Joshua led Israel across the Jordan into earthly inheritance. Jesus leads us from death into eternal life. Moses, representing the Law, could not bring Israel into promise.

The Law exposes sin but cannot provide salvation. Only Joshua could lead them in. In the same way, only Jesus can bring us into the fullness of God's promise.

When we see Joshua standing before the Jordan, we see a shadow of Christ. And when we hear "Be strong," we see it perfectly fulfilled in Jesus. He stood strong when tempted in the wilderness. He stood strong when misunderstood by crowds. He stood strong before Pilate. He stood strong at the cross. What looked like weakness was redemption unfolding. His resurrection proved that divine strength triumphs over death. Therefore, the command "Be strong" is not about human resolve; it is about Christ-centered trust.

Be Strong in the Lord

The New Testament brings this command into clearer focus. Paul writes in Ephesians 6:10, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power." The phrase "in the Lord" is crucial. Strength is in relationship. It is positional before it is practical.

To be strong in the Lord means our identity is anchored in Him. We are not fighting to earn victory; we stand in the victory already accomplished by Christ. Colossians 2:15 tells us that Jesus disarmed spiritual powers and authorities and triumphed over them by the cross. That means we stand on finished work.

Jesus says in John 15:5, "Abide in Me... apart from Me you can do nothing." Strength is the fruit of abiding. A branch does not struggle to produce life; it remains connected to the vine. When we abide in Christ through prayer, obedience, and trust, spiritual vitality flows naturally.

Paul describes the armor of God because strength must be sustained. Truth guards our thinking in a world of confusion. Righteousness protects our integrity in a world of compromise. Faith shields our hearts in moments of doubt. The Word of God guides our steps. This is not aggression; this is spiritual stability.

Hebrews 13:5 echoes Joshua's promise: "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." The presence promised to Joshua now dwells in us through the Holy Spirit. Jesus said in Matthew 28:20, "I am with you always." That means strength is never isolated. We are never alone in obedience. We are never alone in trial. We are never alone in calling.

Philippians 4:13 declares, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Paul wrote that from prison. Strength in the Lord does not remove hardship; it empowers endurance within it.

Be Strong in His Power

Paul continues, "and in His mighty power." The Christian life is not sustained by natural determination. It is empowered by divine energy.

Second Timothy 1:7 declares, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind." Fear does not originate from the Spirit of God. Spirit produces power not loudness, but inner stability. The Spirit produces love not harshness, but courage rooted in compassion. Spirit produces a sound mind does not panic, but disciplined trust.

Joshua was told, "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Why? Because fear weakens faith. Discouragement drains momentum. The Spirit given to us counters both.

Romans 8:11 says, "If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He... will also give life to your mortal bodies." The same resurrection power that raised Christ is active in believers. That means strength is not theoretical; it is alive.

Paul learned this when he heard the Lord say in 2 Corinthians 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Weakness does not disqualify us from strength; it positions us for divine assistance. When we admit limitation, God's power rests upon us.

The resurrection is the ultimate demonstration of His mighty power. Death could not hold Jesus. The grave could not silence Him. That same victorious power is our assurance. Therefore, we do not rely on emotional strength. We rely on divine power.

Be Strong in Faith

Finally, Scripture commands, "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong" (1 Corinthians 16:13). Faith is the channel through which strength operates.

Joshua stepped into the Jordan before he saw waters divide. He marched around Jericho before he saw walls fall. Faith moves in obedience before results are visible.

Hebrews 11 declares that believers "through faith conquered kingdoms... whose weakness was turned to strength." Faith transforms weakness into endurance because faith rests in God's character.

Jesus says in John 16:33, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Strength in faith does not deny reality; it declares Christ's victory over it.

Hebrews 12:2 instructs us to fix our eyes on Jesus. Focus sustains faith. When Peter looked at Christ, he walked on water. When he looked at the storm, he began to sink. Strength in faith means keeping our eyes on Christ rather than on circumstances.

Faith declares that God is faithful in transition. Faith declares that God is present in trial. Faith declares that God is working even when unseen.

Joshua heard, "Be strong." Paul echoed it. The Spirit empowers it. Christ fulfills it.

Why must we be strong? Because obedience requires courage. Because calling requires endurance. Because growth requires perseverance. Because faith must stand firm.

But we are not asked to generate strength alone. Jesus stood strong in obedience, strong in suffering, strong in resurrection victory. And now through His Spirit, His strength is available to us.

Every soldier requires strength. Our strength is not self-made. Our strength is Christ. Be strong.

