

Sunday AM Service ~ April 23, 2023

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

Welcome & Prayer

“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. ² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? ³ My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, “Where is your God?” ⁴ These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng. ⁵ Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.” (Psalm 42:1-5, NIV)

Let us pray.... Dear Lord, our soul pants for you this morning. We long to be in your presence. We long to worship you with others in person but today we can't, despite all our good intentions and so we come to you by ourselves this morning or with our family around us. We need you. We need you like we need our food and drink. We need your presence, your forgiveness, your love, your grace, your help and power. So, give us more of you today. Let us see more of your glory as we sing our songs. Let us hear more your character as we listen to your word. Let us experience more of your goodness as we pray. And draw us closer to your people as we sing the same song, pray the same prayers, listen to the same sermon, even if we are in different locations today. Help us this day to truly worship you in spirit and in truth. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Song – Behold our God [Behold Our God - YouTube](#)

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| <p>1. Who has held the oceans in his hands? Who has numbered every grain of sand? Kings and nations tremble at his voice All creation rises to rejoice</p> | <p>3. Who has felt the nails upon his hands? Bearing all the guilt of sinful man God eternal, humbled to the grave Jesus, Saviour, risen now to reign</p> |
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Chorus: Behold our God, seated on his throne
Come, let us adore him
Behold our king, nothing can compare
Come, let us adore him

Chorus

Bridge You will reign forever
(let Your glory fill the Earth) x8

2. Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of his words?
Who can teach, the one who knows all things?
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?

Chorus

Chorus
Behold our God, seated on his throne
Come, let us adore him
Behold our king, nothing can compare
Come, let us adore him

Bible Reading – Joshua 1:1-9 (NIV)

*“After the death of Moses, the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua’s 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 & from the great river, the*

Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. ⁵ No one will be able to stand 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 ancestors 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 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; 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 afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Announcements 23/4/23

Joshua: The Promise Keeping God

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| 23/4 | Joshua 1 | Be strong and courageous |
| 30/4 | Joshua 2 | Extravagant grace |
| 7/5 | Joshua 3-4 | Stepping out in faith |
| 14.5 | Joshua 5-6 | Joshua didn't fight the battle of Jericho! |
| 21.5 | Joshua 7-8 | The setback due to sin |

“But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15 (NIV))

Focus for April – Easter. The thing about our modern world is that we quickly pass by one milestone and immediately press onto the next one. That should not be the case for the Christian and Easter. So, before we finish April can we ask ourselves a few questions. What Biblical truth struck us most about Jesus' death and resurrection? Did Easter renew our faith in any way? What did it change in the way we live as a Christian? And if I had it all over again, what would I do differently to ensure that I made the most of the Easter weekend?

Working Bee @ Charlestown Church – Saturday 6th May from 8am. All welcome.

Renew (women's conference) – Sat 27 May 9:15am - 3:30pm at Metford Community Baptist Church. Michelle Underwood will speak on Chapter 2 of John's gospel. A beautiful morning tea and lunch is included. \$40 Early bird / Concession and Pensioners, \$45 from Saturday 29 April. Registrations close Mon 22 May. Get in early! For more details and to register online: www.hgm.org.au/renew. For cheque payments and all enquiries contact Linda 0422 014 250

Teaching and Training Women event (part of PCNSW Women) – Sat 29 April. An event entitled 'Jesus is the One we all need' will be held from 9am-1pm. Speakers Georgina Newmarch, Jazz Ohlmus, Nicole Mannyx, Chloe Fisher and Katharine Oxley will be taking us into the lives of some of the men and women Jesus met in the Bible and showing us how He met their needs completely. The teaching will be held at Cornerstone church in Kogarah, but a number of hubs will operate in different venues, and we are hoping to have a hub at Charlestown where we can watch it together. The cost is \$20 and we will need to register online. <https://ttw.pcnswwomen.org.au/registration> Please also let Jo Barlow know if you are able to come (jmbarlow99@gmail.com)

Regular Activities. As school starts back again this week, all our regular activities will again start back up in the coming days. If you would like to serve in any way in Term 2, we would love to hear from you.

Kids Packs. Over the school holidays, our normal Kids Church programme is slightly modified. Kids up to year 2 can still go out to the hall for an age-appropriate lesson. Years 3 & 4 have the option of going to the hall or staying in church with a Kids pace. And those in Year 5 or above are encouraged to stay in Church.

Junior Youth Group. This begins in term 2 and we are excited! If you are in years 4-6 at school, we would love for you to come along. We will meet each fortnight in the church from 5:45 to 7pm. Our first night will be May 5th for a BBQ dinner and would love the parents to come along and join in. We will combine with Impact for our first night with our BBQ and games from 6-7:30pm for our first night for our first night. Cost is \$10. Please speak to Cheryl Gillard for further details.

Marriage Course. After surveying our people, there is currently not enough interest to run the marriage course. We hope to have another attempt at running it next year. Thanks to all those who let Stephen know their availability for this course.

Pledges. Don't forget to be thinking through whether you would like to pledge money towards our proposed building extensions at Charlestown. The quicker we pay off any borrowings, the quicker we can move onto any potential Stage 2!

Charlestown Churches 100th Anniversary. The Charlestown Church was formed 100 years ago this November. We are looking at forming a small group to think through how we might celebrate such a milestone event. If you would like to be a part of this group, please speak to Stephen, Jon or one of the elders. And if you have any historical memorabilia, please us know about it.

Bible Reading – Joshua 1:10-18

¹⁰ So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: ¹¹ "Go through the camp and tell the people, 'Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own.'" ¹² But to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joshua said, ¹³ "Remember the command that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you after he said, 'The LORD your God will give you rest by giving you this land.' ¹⁴ Your wives, your children and your livestock may stay in the land that Moses gave you east of the Jordan, but all your fighting men, ready for battle, must cross over ahead of your fellow Israelites. You are to help them ¹⁵ until the LORD gives them rest, as he has done for you, and until they too have taken possession of the land the LORD your God is giving them. After that, you may go back and occupy your own land, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you east of the Jordan toward the sunrise." ¹⁶ Then they answered Joshua, "Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. ¹⁷ Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you as he was with Moses. ¹⁸ Whoever rebels against your word and does not obey it, whatever you may command them, will be put to death. Only be strong and courageous!"

Pastoral Prayer Points

Pray for Cambodia. Pray for justice and healing from the Khmer Rouge genocide of the late 1970's. Pray for a display of God's power and continued unprecedented growth within the Cambodian Church. Pray for deliverance and salvation for the millions of children in bondage to forced labour, human trafficking, and the sex trade.

Pray for the KYCK conference. Pray that many youths would encounter Christ during this time. Pray for Impact youth group as they travel together to KYCK next weekend. Pray for safety on the road. Pray they would meet Jesus as they open the gospel of Mark together.

Pray for strength for the weary. Pray they would know God cares for them. Pray that the Lord would be their refuge and strength and their distress would be replaced with peace. Help them to be still and know that you are God.

Wee Waa. We thank God that the congregation numbers are holding steady knowing that there will be need for a new minister at this year's end. Pray that there may be active enquiries to Session for a replacement for Pastor Steve Bignall. Pray that the Friday night social gatherings will continue to increase in numbers (with two new people showing an interest in Christian matters) Pray that Steve & his wife Fee will enjoy a three week break in England when visiting their daughter. They leave in a fortnight's time.

Song – Be strong and courageous <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZalYpMWpRg>

Chorus

Be strong and courageous
The Lord of the Ages
Holds all His little ones safe by His side
Be strong and courageous
The Lord of the Ages
Holds all His little ones safe

Verse 1 (Repeat each line)

Do not fear the fire
Do not fear the waters
Do not fear the thunder
Jesus has conquered them all

Chorus

Verse 2 (Repeat each line)

Do not fear the darkness
Do not fear the sadness
Do not fear the sickness
Jesus has conquered them all

Chorus

Verse 3 (Repeat each line)

Do not fear the enemy
Do not fear the poverty
Do not fear eternity
Jesus has conquered them all

Chorus

Sermon – Be strong and courageous (Stephen Taylor)

I feel a tiny bit sorry for Prince Charles. In just two weeks' time he will be crowned King of the United Kingdom. Finally. After waiting for years for the crown to come his way, it will now finally be his. But he is 74 years of age. The time you should be putting your feet up & taking it easy, he will begin the work that he has been trained to do since he was a lad. And he is stepping into the shoes of someone who is universally loved, his mother who was queen for 70 years. I feel sorry for Prince Charles, the UK is saying to him, over to you Charles, no pressure!

Slide 2

Really, he is in the same position as Joshua found himself in 1400 BC. He was following a truly great leader, Moses. Listen to how Moses is described in Deuteronomy 34, the last words written before the book of Joshua. ¹⁰ "Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, who did all those signs & wonders the LORD sent him to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel."

Slide 3

They are some big shoes for Joshua to fill, aren't there? Here you go Josh, it's all over to you, no pressure! But that is something we see continually in the Bible. God buries his workmen but God's work continues. For no one is indispensable. Great men and women come and go and when they go it's time for the next generation to step up. And now it's Joshua's time to step up. It's time for Charles to step up. And maybe it's time for you and I step up too.

Slide 4

Some of you are new to the Church, you have come in after having a bad experience in your previous Church. You have had a look around, come to us, you now believe we are the right people to go forward with. But now might be the time to step up. Others have been here a while; you have seen we have some good leaders & capable people. Things are going well without you. Well now might be the time for you to step up. Others are young and you are happy to leave the work for the older more mature saints. Well now it's time to step up.

Slide 5

"Moses my servant is dead" God says to Joshua. It's time for you to step up. Now before we look at how Joshua is to step up it would be helpful to point out that Joshua has already done a number of things for the Lord already. If we were to briefly survey what he has done up until now in the Bible we would find out

that he was firstly a soldier. For two months after the exodus from Egypt, it was Joshua who led & won the battle against the Amalekites.

And Joshua was a servant, Moses' aide, who was there on Mt Sinai, when Moses met with God. He was also the one who kept guard on Moses' behalf outside the tent of meeting. He was also a spy, one of only 2 spies who came back from looking at the promised land and said, it is a good land, lets now go and take it. And he was Moses' successor, who was for almost 40 years in the shadow of Moses but was getting ready for this most important job.

Slide 6

1. And in verses 1-9 God spoke to Joshua.

"After the death of Moses, the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua's 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."

Joshua, pick up the baton that Moses has passed you. Moses my servant is dead, so you must wait? No! You must weep? No! You must take some time to settle in, gain the confidence of the people, make no big decision for the next 12 months? No! Get ready to cross the Jordan. Moses might be dead Joshua, but God's promises will continue to live on.

You see God's people need to keep on moving forward. They need to keep obeying God's revealed word. But there is no roadmap. No detailed schedule, no explanation of how it was all going to happen. Just get ready to cross the Jordan. It is a bit like when the Lord first spoke to Abram in Genesis 12 isn't it? *"Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you."* No roadmap there. No detailed schedule either. Just go. And trust that I will go with you and keep my promises.

Slide 7

And one of those promises was that he was going to give Abram's descendants the land that he had set apart from him. The very land that was now right in front of Joshua! *"Now then, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon & from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. No one will be able to stand 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."*

Joshua can cross over the Jordan because God will give him every place where he sets his foot, as He promised Moses. This is not a reward for services rendered, it is God's good gift to his people. This is not something that will depend upon their military might, it is the inheritance that was promised to them years and years ago. It might look like mission impossible. Seven nations all bigger, stronger and with more military hardware to defeat. But God will overcome your enemies for you. Every step of the way God will be with you.

Slide 8

In the same way that God was with Moses, he will be with Joshua. As he was with Abram, Jacob, Joseph, he will be with Joshua. Exactly like the later OT writers tell us that God was with Gideon, David, Solomon, the Jewish exiles, God will be with Joshua. People come and go but God stays the same. God promises to be with his people, no matter what.

So, when Jesus says to his followers in John 14, *"I will not leave you as orphans but I will come to you."* When just before Jesus ascends to heaven he says to his followers, *"therefore go and make disciples of all nations... and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* And even when the writer to the Hebrews quotes Joshua 1:5 saying to his readers, *"never will I leave, never will I forsake you."* You and I

know this is a rich vein of truth that is true not just for Joshua but also true for all the Lord's sons and daughters.

Slide 9

But in the words of Spurgeon these promises that God makes to Joshua are not a couch for which Joshua could sit on but a girdle for him to get ready for action with. Not a pillow more like a prod. So that Joshua might have the right attitude. ⁶ *“Be strong & courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land, I swore to their ancestors to give them.”*

Yes, these are big shoes to fill. Yes, he needs to stand up. Of course, the mantle of leadership is a heavy one upon him but Joshua is not to be fearful or easily discouraged. Because God is the one who always keeps his promises. Which is why he needs to make sure that God's word is always ringing in his ears.

“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. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; 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.”

In the past God spoke to Moses and Abraham face to face. But Moses has now written all those words down, in the first 5 books of the Bible. And so, we are hearing that Joshua will be the first generation not to have a voice from God telling him what to do but the word of God telling him what to do. So, every day, every night, day in and day out, Joshua must read, meditate, inwardly digest and follow God's words. That will be the secret to his success.

You see that's what personal faith looks like. Having God's words as the sound track to your life. You might want a special voice or a vision or a dream. A personal prophecy. A direct word from the Lord. And it's not that God can't do that. But in the words of Romans 10:17 *“Faith comes from hearing and hearing through the word of Christ.”* Joshua and all who want to follow him need a daily, disciplined diet of God's word in their lives.

Slide 10

So, let's put this all together, shall we? The attitude that God is calling Joshua to is to be strong and courageous. But he is about to go into battle. He is about to do something almost impossible. How on earth can you be strong and courageous? Only when your faith is based on the agreement that God has already made with his people. That He will go with them. That he will overcome their enemies. That He will give them what He has promised. And those promises become the soundtrack of Joshua's life as he constantly reminds himself of who God is and what God promises to do. And that enables him to be obedient, to take up God's call for action and to cross over into the Promised land.

But what about us? We aren't called to slay any Amalekites or to take possession of God's promised land, the whole of Newcastle. But God promises that if we are weak, we can be strong & if we confess our sins that he will forgive them. He assures that he will do a good work in us and make us more like Jesus. He tells us to trust Him no matter what, to walk by faith in all things & when we trust in those promises you and I can be strong & courageous.

God has given us the gift card containing the promises of God and we can use that gift card in the shops that God is calling us to go into. We can cash any of God's cheques because we know the bank of heaven will be able to pay out. It is not going to go under like an American or Swiss bank. Whatever God calls us to do, he will be with us until the very end. Whatever God promises to do for us in His word he will be faithful to that promise. So, whatever he is calling us to do, wherever he is calling us to go, we can be strong and courageous in doing it because our hope doesn't rest on our own abilities but instead on God's mighty power.

2. God speaks to Joshua (verses 1-9) then Joshua speaks to the people (v10-15)

¹⁰ *“So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: “Go through the camp and tell the people, ‘Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own.’”*

Joshua hears God’s word and he passes it on to the leaders of the people. He picks up the baton from Moses and gives it to the officers of the people. Both he and they both know that the river Jordan is in flood. They both know that the people of the land will not give up their homes and crops and lifestyle without a fight. But if God says now is the time to go forward and to cross the river, they are prepared to cross the Jordan now.

Just as Joshua has been called to cross the Jordan, he calls his fighting men to also cross the Jordan. Just as he has been told to be strong and courageous, they are also to be strong and courageous. And just as he is to remember and trust in God’s promises, so if God is giving them this land and if God promises to be with us as he gives them this land, then they can go forth in confidence. But God has one group in particular he wants to talk to. The tribes of Reuban, Gad and Manasseh who have already received their share of the inheritance.

You see under Moses leadership; they almost caused a split in the people of God by saying we want to live in the good land on the other side of the Jordan. Despite the barrier that this important body of water will erect between us we want to stay in a part of the country that God didn’t promise to give to his people. And it was Moses who averted a major split by granting them that land as long as they join their brothers and sisters and fight for the promised land beyond the Jordan. Which they eventually agreed to do.

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So, Joshua says to these guys. ¹³ *“Remember the command that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you after he said, ‘The LORD your God will give you rest by giving you this land.’ Your wives, your children and your livestock may stay in the land that Moses gave you east of the Jordan, but all your fighting men, ready for battle, must cross over ahead of your fellow Israelites. You are to help them until the LORD gives them rest, as he has done for you & until they too have taken possession of the land the LORD your God is giving them.”*

These three tribes, must also cross over and fight. Because God is giving the rest of Israel the land, he has promised them also. And so, at this critical time in the history of their country they need to be unified. They need to trust God’s promises together. They need to cross the river together. They need to be strong and courageous as well.

Someone once said there are two types of people. Firstly, there is the person who drives into a carpark and takes the first available car park spot and then there are those who push on to find the perfect spot, near the shops entrance, with plenty of room either side, maybe even in the shade. These 3 tribes parked their car in the first available spot but are being called to help secure a car park for the rest of the family before they go home. Which leads

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3. To the people speaking back to Joshua. (Verses 16-18)

¹⁶ *“Then they answered Joshua, “Whatever you have commanded us we will do & wherever you send us we will go. Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you as he was with Moses. Whoever rebels against your word and does not obey it, whatever you may command them, will be put to death. Only be strong and courageous!”*

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The people of Israel at this stage of their history will be unified. They are all singing from the same song sheet. Yes, we will obey God's call. Yes, we believe that God is with us. Yes, we will back you because the Lord is with you Joshua. So, Joshua, we want you to be strong and courageous. And as we follow you, we too will be strong and courageous as well.

They saw that the unity of God's people was vital to receive the full enjoyment of God's promises. So even though Moses has died, they see that God hasn't left them. For God's promises, God's presence and God's power will still be with God's people. And that gives them fresh courage to strap on their swords, to leave their family behind and step out in faith. They take on the baton that is being passed their way. And so, the whole of God's people is unified behind the leadership of God's chosen servant, Joshua.

Now will they serve Joshua like they did Moses, well come back next week and find out. But maybe before we judge others, we need to judge ourselves. Will we follow our God appointed leadership? Will we believe in the promises of God no matter what? Will we meditate and study the word of God given to us, that is God breathed and useful for teaching, correcting, rebuking and training us in righteousness? And will we stand up, take the baton of faith that others have handed to us and serve the Lord despite the dangers.

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4. Because (fourthly) the Lord speaks to us

Because Romans 15:4 says *"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."*

Joshua 1 was not just written for the people in Joshua's time but it was written also for us. You see the God of Joshua is our God. He doesn't change his purposes. He doesn't renege on his promises. But this is here for our encouragement. And to teach us more about Jesus.

Well, how does it teach us about Jesus? Well Jesus is the Greek version of the word Joshua. Both words mean "My Lord is my salvation" And so it is Jesus that fulfils the great purposes that Joshua is charged to bring about. Joshua is to capture the land of promise and give his people rest. Jesus secures for us all of God's promises & in doing so offers his followers rest.

Joshua points his followers to the Lord who has saved them. Jesus secures that salvation by doing for his people on the cross. Joshua was strong & courageous in the pages that follow. But Jesus courage and strength was seen in apparent weakness as his very own people rebelled against him & strung him up on the cross. God then abandoned his one and only son so that through his death he might embrace those who would put their trust in Him.

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Friends in the words of English preacher David Jackman *"We too are in a battle fully to possess all that God has given to us. We too have not yet reached the fullness of rest in the heavenly kingdom, but we are set free to fight against the world, the flesh and the devil and so to enter more and more of the blessings of the everlasting gospel. We too have life changing lessons to learn about the priorities of faith and obedience."*

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So, what are some of those life changing lessons? Well today we, like Joshua, are being called to be strong and courageous. To step up. To take from others the baton of faith. It is not easy being a Christian in Australia today. It is not easy to stand up for Jesus. It is hard to find the time to read and soak in God's word. It takes courage to lead your families well. It involves a change of values to prioritise servicing the Lord over feathering our own nests. But today God is calling us to do just that. To be strong and courageous.

So, will you be strong and courageous today? Well, I think our passage would tell us that we can only be strong and courageous if like Joshua we have spent time with God's word. Yes, here at church we run activities that highly value God's word. But it really doesn't do you much good unless for the rest of the week you also highly value God's word. How long did you spend this week in the word? Did you spend more time than on your phone? My phone now tells me how much time I spend on it on average each day & to be honest if I am going to spend more time in the word that will require some big, big changes in my life.

And as you read God's word more and more you get more acquainted with his wonderful promises. For in it you see that God promises not just to be with you but before you & behind you and even within you. How amazing is that? If God is for you, who can be against you. Knowing that you are not alone will help you to be strong & courageous. Knowing that Father, Son and Holy Spirit is with you will enable you to stand up & take the baton of faith.

Paul tells his readers, *"Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might."* Friends, you & I are not strong on our own. You are not courageous if left to your own devices. But if God is with you, you can move mountains. So read his word. Trust in His promises. For that will enable you to answer the call. To cross over into enemy territory. To claim the promises of scripture as your very own. To go wherever he is calling you to go.

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Listen to these words of Hebrews 13: ⁵ *Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So, we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"* You get that? We are called to flee from the love of money. Called to be content with what we have. Because the Lord is with us. He has plan for your life & right now you are in the very middle of it. So don't whinge or complain. Walk in faith.

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God is the same. Jesus is the same. So, friends be strong and courageous. But let me end with these words from a Casting Crown song called Courageous. *"We were made to be courageous. We were made to lead the way. We could be the generation. That finally breaks the chains. We were made to be courageous. We were warriors on the front lines. Standing, unafraid. But now we're watchers on the sidelines. While our families slip away. Where are you, men of courage? You were made for so much more. Let the pounding of our hearts cry. We will serve the Lord. We were made to be courageous. And we're taking back the fight. We were made to be courageous. And it starts with us tonight."*

Song – O Church Arise[Keith & Kristyn Getty - O Church Arise \(Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#)

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| <p>1. O Church Arise and put your armour on Hear the call of Christ our Captain For now the weak can say that they are strong In the strength that God has given With shield of faith and belt of truth We'll stand against the devil's lies An army bold whose battle-cry is Love Reaching out to those in darkness</p> <p>2. Our call to war to love the captive soul But to rage against the captor And with the sword that makes the wounded whole We will fight with faith and valour When faced with trials on every side We know the outcome is secure And Christ will have the prize for which He died An inheritance of nations</p> | <p>3. Come see the cross where love & mercy meet As the Son of God is stricken Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet For the Conqueror has risen And as the stone is rolled away And Christ emerges from the grave This victory march continues till the day Every eye and heart shall see Him</p> <p>4. So Spirit come put strength in every stride Give grace for every hurdle That we may run with faith to win the prize Of a servant good and faithful As saints of old still line the way Retelling triumphs of His grace We hear their calls and hunger for the day When with Christ we stand in glory</p> |
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Benediction

⁸ Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; 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 afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:8-9)