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# Faithing the Future for the Long Run

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Today's Scripture: Joshua 1:6-7

## FAITH FOR THE FUTURE IS ABOUT LIVING FOR THE LORD FOR THE LONG RUN

- When you think about long run faith, think of Joshua
- His life was defined by two qualities – He listened and He acted
- Joshua faced a challenge so big it would define his life
- It is only in the crucible of big challenges that God molds strong believers

## FAITH FOR THE LONG RUN LISTENS TO GOD'S PROMISES

- God's promise gave Joshua the boldness to face whatever was before him
- *"No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you."* Joshua 1:5
- As long as Joshua allowed the promises of God to ring in His heart, He could act with assurance
- Faith for the long run displays confident courage because it is never focused on the circumstances around it
- It is focused on the promises of God
- *"I will not leave you nor forsake you."* Joshua 1:5

## FAITH FOR THE LONG RUN FOLLOWS GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS

- The Lord called Joshua to a lifestyle of constant dependence
- He was guided by God's Word
- *"Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go."* Joshua 1:7
- God reminded Joshua of three facts you and I need to remember
  - Knowing and following the Word is not optional.
  - Obeying the Word is always a first-person experience.
  - There is no room for wiggle room where the Word of God is concerned.

- *“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do all that is written in it.” Joshua 1:8*

## **FAITH FOR THE LONG RUN TRUSTS IN THE LORD’S CONSTANT PRESENCE**

- *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9*
- Joshua could believe God’s promises and trust God’s Word, but he could also depend upon God’s presence
- God was not sending him; He was taking him
- *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9*

## **A LONG RUN BELIEVER IS WILLING TO STEP UP TO THE CHALLENGE**

- God had not changed the circumstances, but He had transformed the man
- *“Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people saying, ‘Pass through the camp and command the people, saying “prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess.” VV.10-11*
- In Joshua’s mind, the challenge he faced was already fulfilled.