

“THE RESILIENT LIFE”
(Overcoming the Crisis and Anxieties of Life Through Christ)

“A DECISION CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE”

Text: Joshua 1:1-9

INTRODUCTION: In this study, we are going to look at in times of crisis how resilient Christians respond with faith-filled, courageous obedience to God. It is in the life of Joshua, Moses’ successor, that we can learn how to claim God’s promises and make powerful decisions of _____.

Life is filled with crisis. Satan uses the crisis of men to send fear, discouragement and questions our way. Sometimes good, solid people sink into doubt, become paralyzed by fear and make foolish decisions when they are filled with uncertainty and fear. How is it that we rise above the moments of crisis and find resilience in the Lord? The Book of Joshua opens in a crisis moment in Israel’s history. Moses has died and Israel stands on the _____ of the land that God had promised to them. Great challenges would lay ahead for the nation of Israel and for Joshua. Joshua refused to respond with frantic motion. Rather, he made measured decisions of *faith*.

We are wise to learn that specific answers to every crisis will be varied, but at its foundation, there will always be a _____ of _____. In this lesson, we will learn the resilience that God can give us in a crisis.

I. THERE IS _____ IN A PROBLEM

Sometimes we don’t expect it, or see it; but we can always, by *faith*, trust that God can see and do what we cannot.

How was Israel to know that they were in one of the greatest seasons of their young history? How could they believe that God was about to allow a whole new generation the experience of crossing the _____ _____ on dry ground or of raising up a new leader who would bring them through an amazing period of conquest as they claimed the land that God had promised to _____?

A. The _____ of Moses (Joshua 1:1-5)

Let’s let our hearts rest a moment on the *first five-words* of the first verse of this chapter.

What great loss the children of Israel must have felt!

This Moses that God spoke to through a *burning bush*, this Moses that God used to bring ten plaques to the land of _____, this Moses that God gave the *Ten Commandments* and the *Law* to.....**DEAD!**

One of the great hindrances to seeing *potential in a problem* is when we get stuck in the past. While God wants us to be grateful for the past and to learn from the past, He doesn’t want us to _____ in the past. (**Victory or Defeat**) **Philippians 3:13-14**

B. The _____ of Joshua

God is never caught off guard by human happenings. God has an *unblemished record* of raising up leaders who will call people to *trust* and to *follow God*. Joshua had been mentored by Moses for over ____ years. Over that time, Joshua had developed

- **A Proven Courage (Exodus 17:8-10,13)** We remember Joshua and Hur holding up the arms of Moses as Israel battled the Amalekites, but who led these men to the battlefield – **Joshua did!**

- **A Proven _____ (Numbers 14:6-8)** Joshua was one of the 12 spies to go to Canaan to spy out the land. Ten of the spies were incredibly faithless in their reports of taking Canaan – two of the spies were not. Those two spies were _____ and Caleb.

Resilience in times of *crisis* requires that we see our problems in light of the greatness of God!

- **A Proven _____ (Exodus 24:13-18)**

For forty years Joshua chose the role of being a *servant/minister* to Moses.

Joshua waited for his opportunity to serve.

Let us learn that a resilient life is a _____ life. Be careful making decisions in the wilderness of waiting! God always blesses *humble, faithful service!* (**Psalm 27:14**)

II. THERE IS _____ WITH THE OPPORTUNITY (1:3-5, Matthew 16:18)

God gives His people the amazing resource of His promises to carry us through life's crisis.

The work that God is doing on this earth through the local church is not in vain.

"With God's Calling, Comes God's Enabling!"

Consider three promises that God gave to Joshua in his encounter with crisis:

A. Promise of the _____ (Genesis 13:15-17)

God first gave this promise to Abraham.

As believers, we hear the promises of God and are assured by them, but we have a tendency not to _____ on them. God's promises are **essential** to a life of resilience.

B. Promise of _____ (Romans 8:35-37)

While others can cause crisis in our lives, no one can prevent us from experiencing success in what God has promised – *Peace, Direction, Strength, Provision, Comfort, Grace* and *much more*.

C. Promise of God's _____ (1:9, Hebrews 13:5-6, John 14:26)

The ultimate resource that God promised to Joshua, and to us; without which, not one spiritual victory is possible.

"The will of God will never lead us where the grace of God cannot keep us."

CONCLUSION: Crisis comes to the lives of each of us, there are no exceptions to this rule.

We need to quit acting like we are alone in our battle with crisis, because we are not. While in a crisis, we are helped when we remember that God will make a way for us to escape from it, if we will _____ trust Him. The mentorship of Moses to Joshua was not wasted. Experiencing resilience in times of crisis requires of us to remember the promises of God's presence and His grace. He will not – (**No Never**) – let us down.

NEXT WEEK – "THERE IS POWER IN A DECISION"