



Joshua – Listen to the Call

Joshua 1:1-9
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Intro: The older generation will realise how much communication has changed over the years (remember rotary-dial telephones, Rolodexes, phone booths?). In the Old Testament, God spoke to people through dreams, Theophanies, and some out-of-the-ordinary ways (like Balaam’s donkey!). Today, God still speaks to us through His Word. In Joshua 1:1-9, we see God speaking now directly to Joshua, the successor to Moses.

1. God’s Instruction to Joshua (1:1-2)

- God spoke directly to Joshua - God can communicate any way that He wants to us here in the New Testament.
- God speaks to us through something that never changes, His Word and through the Holy Spirit here in N.T. times. (II Tim. 3:15-16; 2:15; Ps. 119:105; Heb. 4:12)

2. God’s Promises to Joshua (1:3-9)

A. Promise of a Land (v. 3,4)

- Today, the Christian’s goal should also have a land in view. We aren’t entitled to the promises of Israel, but we are given the promises as Christians. Our promise is the land beyond this world.

B. Promise of God’s Presence (v. 5)

- God knew that Joshua needed encouragement. God has been preparing Joshua to take over the leadership of Israel.
- God’s presence is with us all of the time. As New Testament believers, you have God in you.

C. Promise of Wisdom (v. 6-7)

- Be strong and courageous in listening to God’s Word and being obedient to it (v.7)- don’t turn from it; **you will prosper**

D. Promise of Success (v. 8-9)

“success” in God’s eyes.

God’s Success = Found in Doing His Personal Will in Our Lives

1. The Sovereign Will of God

2. The Moral Will of God

1. 1 Thess. 5:17	1. Prayer
2. John 13:34-35	2. Love one another
3. 2 Tim. 3:16-17	3. Reading and studying the Bible
4. 1 Tim. 2:3-4	4. Salvation
5. Eph. 6:1	5. Obedience to parents
6. Mt. 28:19-20	6. Witnessing
7. 1 Thess. 4:3	7. Sexual purity
8. Eph. 5:17-18	8. Filled with the Spirit

3. The Personal Will of God for Your Life – Rom. 12:1-2

- a) Present your body as a *living* sacrifice. (12:1)
- b) Don't Conform/ Be Transformed

Conclusion:

God has a plan for your life. He wants you to accomplish something great for Him. Greatness isn't defined in human terms but being successful in God's terms.

Questions:

1. How does the world define "greatness" or "success" usually? Do Christians often carry over the same thought and beliefs into their understanding of the Lord? Why?
2. Pastor Kevin demonstrated to us how God sees the "big picture" with his close-up photos of various objects (like Ronald McDonald and the packet of Oreo cookies). It was very hard to know what it was until we could see the whole picture. How does understanding the sovereignty of God help you in your trials and difficulties you are going through?
3. As we present ourselves as *living sacrifices* and refuse to conform to the world, but *transformed*, what kinds of things can God accomplish in and through us?

Prayer: "Dear Father, thank you for speaking to us today through Your Word, the Bible. Thank you that we can count on it and live by it. I trust in your sovereignty – that You, Lord, have the big picture in mind and can see far more than I can. Help me to accept that there may be things in this life where only you see the whole picture. Help me to trust in You. Finally, help me to not be conformed any longer to the pattern of this world, but to be transformed in my mind by Your Word. Thank you in Jesus name, amen!"