



## SD#109 How to Be Brave When Surrounded by Death

Joshua 1:9 (NIV) *“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.”*

### Reflection Questions:

- 1) Do the cares of this world ignite fear in your heart?
- 2) Are there doubts that loom over you and cause overwhelm?
- 3) How can knowing Jesus conquered fear and death dispel our fear?



### Extended Devotion:

As a little girl, I grappled with a gnawing fear of the dark. Perhaps the uncertainty of what lurked in the watches of the night gave me pause and questioned my safety. But the moment my mom held my hand and prayed over me, peace quieted the fear. Memorizing verses and praying them in times of distress became a peaceful practice when I faced the sobering deaths of family members and dear friends. Being brave is far from easy in a world we don't understand. When fear of the unknown crashes in waves of uncertainty upon your soul, there is a greater hope that dispels all fear.

Life is hard, and holding fast in the midst of struggles and uncertainty is even harder. But we do not have to live as those who have no hope. As believers in Christ, we know that our hope lies in Him. We have the promises of His Word that guide and strengthen us for whatever the journey brings. Just as He guided the Israelites and exhorted them to remain strong and courageous (Joshua 1:9), that command holds just as true for us today. We don't have to live in fear because God promises that He is with us wherever we go, even in the darkest moments.

**We don't control our circumstances, but we have a God who does and He is trustworthy.** Friends, the God who sent His only begotten on the cross and rose again for coverage of our sins is the only trustworthy source we will ever need. He knows the beginning and the end of our story because He is the beginning and the end (Revelation 1:8). We can live bravely in the midst of pain, suffering, and death because our Heavenly Father is walking before us, providing the perfect path.

Psalm 23:4 (ESV) says, *"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."* In His presence, there is no fear! Even as we walk through uncertainty, we can hold fast to His promises that are everlasting in all seasons.

### Application:

1. Fear can cripple and tear down our faith. Write out Joshua 1:9 and perhaps claim it as another verse for your spiritual armor.
2. Read Psalm 23 aloud to the Lord. David penned these words in some of his darkest hours. Christ is our Lord, our Shepherd, our King who cares about our fears.

### Takeaway:

We can live bravely today because we know God holds the future.

