

How to become a Victorious Leader in 2018 A Need to know for the Body of Christ

Happy & Blessed New Year

Intro: As we enter into 2018, we must be ready to shift-to do things differently-to make changes for our Victory. We must be willing and able to do and know the following: But, first and foremost: Run to the Word of God for your answers in daily living; Be a "Doer" not just a hearer, Don't give up! Then:

1. Know deep down in your knower: You were born to create something great-go for it!
 2. Attempt to do great things for God and at the same time expect great things.
 3. Be Strong and Courageous when going through tough times and know this: You may have to stand alone.
 4. Obey God and leave the consequences to Him.
 5. Again, stay in the Word of God-read it daily
 6. Pray for God to intervene in every situation
 7. Ask for Help from the precious Holy Spirit-granting Wisdom, Understanding and Knowledge-Increase-Multiplication, and Land possession
 8. Always declare God's favor over your life-expect everywhere you go and in all that you do-the Favor of God is surrounding you as a shield. Expect it!
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- I. The bible speaks of a Victorious Leaders: One that we will be discussing today is Joshua. Let's study his leadership qualities. Let's make a commitment to change the course to become Victorious Leaders .
 - II. But , before we get into the lesson, I believe we need to ponder on some thought provoking questions as we prepare to make a shift into Victorious Leadership:
 - (a) Why are you alive?
 - (b) Does your life matter
 - (c) What is your purpose for living?

As I was reading "Rick Warren, The Purpose of Christmas" I was reminded that God has a plan and purpose for our life and it is for good.

"¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² In those days when you pray, I will listen. ¹³ If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. ¹⁴ I will be found by you," says the LORD. "I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land."

III. THE LEADERSHIP QUALITIES OF JOSHUA"

**Hear the word of God:
The LORD's Charge to Joshua: I: 5-9**

⁵ No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you.

⁶ "Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. ⁷ Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. ⁸ Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. ⁹ This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Key verses:

Joshua 1:7

"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." (NIV)

Joshua 4:14

That day the Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they revered him all the days of his life, just as they had revered Moses. (NIV)

Joshua 10:13-14

The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the Lord listened to a man. Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel! (NIV)

Joshua 24:23-24

"Now then," said Joshua, "throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the Lord our God and obey him." (NIV)

Joshua 24:29-31

- IV. It is impressive to note the great influence that Joshua had with those of his generation - cf. **Josh 24:29-31**
- a. Of course, much of that influence was due to God being with him and doing many "great works"
 - b. Such as the parting of the Jordan River, the fall of Jericho, the day the sun and moon stood still
2. But credit must also be given to Joshua, for from the very beginning the promise of God's support was based upon Joshua's faithful obedience to the Word of God - **Josh 1:1-9**
3. Joshua therefore stands before us as an example of what it takes to be a great leader...
- a. Every generation needs good leadership, especially in times of struggle and doubt
 - b. For those who lead, or who might one day serve as leaders, Joshua serves as a role model
 - c. For those who follow, he serves as an example of what we should look for in our leaders

[In this lesson, we shall consider more closely those qualities of Joshua that served to make him the great leader that he was, so that we know what to expect in those who would lead today.

Joshua was...]

V.A MAN OF HUMILITY

A. BEFORE HE WAS A LEADER, HE WAS WILLING TO SERVE...

1. For forty years he served under Moses in the Wilderness
2. He was known as "Moses' assistant", "his servant" - **Exo 24:13; 33:11**
-- Great leaders are people who have no problem with serving others if that is their lot in life; indeed, it helps prepare to them to lead

B. EVEN AS A LEADER, HE WAS WILLING TO SERVE...

1. Though having been magnified by the Lord himself - **Josh 3:7; 4:14**
2. He was still willing to serve One greater than himself - **Josh 5:13-15**
-- Great leaders do not let praise go to their head; they are humble enough to know when it is time to serve once again

[Joshua's humility is also demonstrated as we consider another quality

that we find in him...]

VI. A MAN OF FAITH AND TRUST IN GOD

A. AS DEMONSTRATED WHEN SENT TO SPY OUT THE LAND...

1. Ten of the twelve spies demonstrated their lack of faith in God by their report - **Num 13:25-28**
2. But despite the "peer pressure" he must have felt, Joshua (along with Caleb) demonstrated his faith in God by his report - cf. **Nu 14:6-9**

B. AS DEMONSTRATED IN THE FALL OF JERICHO...

1. The Lord gave him the instructions to take the city - **Josh 6:1-5**
2. Only full trust and faith in the Lord could have led Joshua to follow such instructions, but he did! - cf. **He 11:30**

[Great leaders realize they cannot place their faith in men (including themselves); they must look to God!

Closely related to this is another quality of Joshua that made him a great leader: he was...]

VII. A MAN OF GOD'S WORD

A. HIS SUCCESS WAS DIRECTLY RELATED TO HIS ADHERENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD...

1. To ensure success, he had to fulfill all the Law as given by Moses - **Josh 1:7**
2. To ensure that he did, he was to meditate upon the Law day and night - **Josh 1:8**

B. TIME AND AGAIN, WE SEE THAT JOSHUA WAS TRUE TO THE WORD...

1. In reminding the two and half tribes of their responsibility - **Josh 1:12-15**
2. In renewing the covenant at Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim - **Josh 8:30-35**
3. A summary of Joshua's devotion is found in **Josh 11:15**
4. Even at the end of his life, he encouraged the nation to heed God's Word - **Josh 23:6,14-16**

[Faith comes from the Word of God (**Ro 10:17**), so we really can't expect one to be a man of faith without being a man of God's Word.

For those who would lead, they need to heed the charge God gave Joshua

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(Josh 1:8), which is similar to the charge Paul gave Timothy (1 Ti 4:13-16).

Closely related to being a man of faith and trust is being...]

VIII. A MAN OF PRAYER

A. WE SEE HIM PRAYING FOR HIS PEOPLE'S FAILURES...

1. Following the defeat at Ai - Josh 7:6-9
2. In which he and the elders pleaded with God in behalf of Israel

B. WE SEE HIM PRAYING IN THE MIDST OF WARFARE...

1. As Israel is routing the kings of the south - Josh 10:9-14
2. Trusting not in their own strength, he looks to the Lord for help, Who causes the sun and moon to stand still

[If Joshua had not been a man of prayer, the aid of the Lord would not have been provided. When leaders need all the help they can get, they need to be men of prayer!

Finally, it should be clear from what we have already seen that another quality of leadership found in Joshua is that he was...]

VIV. A MAN WHO PUT GOD FIRST

A. BEFORE THE BUSINESS AT HAND...

1. Even in the middle of a military campaign - Josh 8:30-35; cf. Deut 27-28
2. Though it gave their enemies time to join together in opposition (Josh 9:1-2), Joshua still put God first and kept His commandment concerning the blessings and cursings

B. BEFORE OTHERS...

1. He cared not what others might do or think, he would serve the Lord! - Josh 24:14-15
2. His strong stand influenced others for good - Josh 24:16

Do we have a Joshua in our midst today? I think so:

Short Illustration: Dr. Charles Stanley, one of the greatest teacher/pastor in the world: A true Joshua spirit lives in him today.

Case in Point:

- (a) After 44 years of marriage, his wife divorces him
- (b) Son was youth pastor in the church and working alongside of Dr. Stanley
- (c) Strife developed with son and father (Dr. Stanley).
- (d) Son leaves the church-members of Dr. Stanley's church followed son

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(e) **Church Split because of strife**

(f) **Southern Baptist denomination policy stated pastor cannot be divorce and pastor. It look like it was going to be over for Dr. Stanley. But God!!!!**

(g) **In the end, the favor of God caused Southern Baptist Committee to make a new policy allowing divorce to pastor. Thank God for Favor.**

In spite of all the disappointments/sadness/obstacles/strife and controversy coming against Dr. Stanley and his family; Dr. Stanley trusted and obeyed God. In the end, God brought a Victory of favor in the consequences.

Joshua's Accomplishments:

During the 40 years the Jewish people wandered in the wilderness, Joshua served as a faithful aide to Moses. Of 12 spies sent to scout out Canaan, only Joshua and Caleb had confidence in God, and only those two survived the desert ordeal to enter the Promised Land. Against overwhelming odds, Joshua led the Israelite army in its conquest of the Promised Land. He apportioned the land to the tribes and governed them for a time. Without a doubt, Joshua's greatest accomplishment in life was his unwavering loyalty and faith in God.

Power Point: We are living to accomplish something great for the Kingdom of God! Make no mistake about it-we are not living for ourselves.

Joshua's Strengths:

While serving Moses, Joshua was also an **attentive student, learning** much from the great leader. **Joshua showed tremendous courage**, despite the huge responsibility assigned to him. He was a **brilliant military commander**. Joshua prospered because he trusted God with every aspect of his life.

Joshua's Weaknesses:

Before battle, Joshua always consulted God. Unfortunately, he did not do so when the people of Gibeon entered into a deceptive peace treaty with Israel. God had forbidden Israel to make treaties with any people in Canaan. If Joshua had sought God's guidance first, he would not have made this mistake.

Life Lessons:

Obedience, faith, and dependence on God made Joshua one of Israel's strongest leaders. He provided a bold example for us to follow. Like us, Joshua was often besieged by other voices, but he chose to follow God, and he did it faithfully. Joshua took seriously the Ten Commandments and ordered the people of Israel to live by them as well.

Even though Joshua was not perfect, he proved that a **life of obedience** to God bears **great rewards**. Sin always has consequences. If we live according to God's Word, like Joshua, we will receive God's blessings.

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CONCLUSION

1. It was qualities such as these that made Joshua the strong leader that he was...
 - a. He was a man of humility
 - b. He was a man of faith and trust in God
 - c. He was a man of God's Word
 - d. He was a man of prayer
 - e. He was a man who put God first
2. But he was not alone in these things, as it appears that others of his generation were much the same - cf. **Josh 24:31**
 - a. As long as the elders who had been contemporary with Joshua survived, the nation as a whole served the Lord
 - b. So we are not talking about supernatural qualities, but those which each and every person is capable of possessing!

Finally, consider some similarities between Joshua and Jesus...

- 1) Their names are the same (Joshua is Hebrew, Jesus is Greek), which means "savior"
- 2) Joshua was the leader of the Israelites into the promised land of Canaan; Jesus is our leader into the promised land of heaven - cf. **Jn 14:1**
- 3) As Joshua pointed the people to the Word of God, so did Jesus - **Mt 7:21**

Point to Ponder: Question? What are you doing or planning to do to help advance the Kingdom of God?

Remember: God save you for a purpose: What is your purpose for living? Why do you think your life matter? Why are you alive? Think about it!

Let's pray:

Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me and giving me the courage and the strength to never, ever "Give up!" Help me Holy Spirit to have Wisdom, Understanding and Knowledge. Help me to be Strong and courageous in spite of what it looks like or what is happening around me.

Holy Spirit: Help me to walk in faith, Power and Victory- Always Expecting something good to happen as I make the changes to move forward in becoming a Victorious Leader-- in Jesus name. Amen.