

Talk 4

Faith is Stretching our Imaginations

1 Corinthians 2:9 (nlt) *No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him.*

Ephesians 3:20 (ncv) *With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine.*

Have you ever imagined how God can use us?

In **Joshua 1:1-11** we can learn 4 lessons from Joshua's life in serving God.

1. WE NEED TO LET GO OF DOUBT.

James 1:6-7 (ncv) *Anyone who doubts is like a wave in the sea, blown up and down by the wind... They should not think they will receive anything from the Lord.*

Joshua 1:9 (tlb) *Be bold and strong! Banish fear and doubt! For remember, the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

What causes us to doubt?

1. Comparing our abilities causes us to doubt our abilities.
2. Remembering our past failures will cause us to self-doubt.

2. WE NEED TO LOOK FOR A PROMISE.

Joshua 1:3 (ncv) *I promised Moses I would give you this land, so I will give you every place you go in the land.*

Joshua 23:14 (gnb) *Now my time has come to die. Every one of you knows... that God has given you all the good things that He promised. Every promise He made has been kept; not one has failed.*

There are 3 promises from God for those who live and serve Him.

1. He promises to give us strength - (*Joshua 1:5*)
2. He promises to give us success - (*Joshua 1:7*)
3. He promises to give us support - (*Joshua 1:9*)

Joshua 1:8 (ncv) *Always remember what is written in this Book... Study it day and night to be sure to obey everything that is written there. If you do this, you will be wise and successful in everything.*

3. WE NEED TO LEAN ON THE LORD.

Who or what are you leaning on for strength?

Joshua 1:5 (ncv) *No one will be able to defeat you all your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forget you.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 (nas) *Trust in the Lord with all your heart. And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him. And He will make your paths straight.*

When you lean on God it means more than just “I believe in God.” It means, “I am trusting Him to hold me up.”

Leaning on the Lord is scary. It’s uncomfortable sometimes. But that’s what leaning in faith is all about. You discover He will hold you up.

4. WE NEED TO LAUNCH OUT IN FAITH

Joshua 1:10-11 (tlb) *Then Joshua issued instructions to the leaders to tell the people to get ready to cross the Jordan River.*

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (tlb) *If you wait for perfect conditions, you’ll never get anything done!*

Ephesians 3:20 (msg) *God can do anything, you know far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, His Spirit deeply and gently within us.*

There is no greater thrill than being used by God. Nothing even comes close to the feeling of when you know that God is using you for His purpose to help somebody else.

Sadly, many people never ever feel the thrill of being used by God, even though that’s what they were made for. But why?

They won’t let go of doubt, they won’t look for a promise, they won’t lean on the Lord, and they won’t launch out in faith. **Don’t make that mistake!**