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CelebrateChange.org

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## BE STRONG AND OF GOOD COURAGE

*"Courage is like a muscle, we strengthen it with use." - Ruth Gordon*

When Joshua was given the responsibility to lead the children of Israel it is quite possible he was intimidated and nervous about the challenge. I base this on the Lord's words spoken to Joshua to fortify his spirit for the task. God tells him more than once, "Be strong and of good courage." Our God does not waste words; therefore these words spoken by Him serve notice that Joshua needed strength and courage to be the next leader of the people of God. Joshua saw how the people behaved under Moses and he knew the people provoked Moses causing him to lose the opportunity to go to the Promised Land. Joshua was there during the battles Moses fought to lead the people to freedom and to conquer the land given to them by God. When you read the book of Joshua it's filled with the many battles they fought to conquer their land. You can tell as you read each account that Joshua's confidence and courage increases along the way. His courage was strengthened with every experience encountered. In chapter 9 they were deceived by a group of people. Joshua and his leaders did not consult the Lord before responding to the group. Joshua did not allow this scam he fell for to weaken him but remained strong courageous as his confidence was not in people but in his God.

I believe the Lord is telling us today, "Be strong and of good courage." Each encounter in life is an opportunity to strengthen our courage as we cling to the source of our strength which is Jesus Christ to deliver us. The battle is not ours, it's the Lord's. We are a part of the host of God to fight in His kingdom. It takes courage to fight, however, remember who the Captain of the host is, and then remain confident while engaged in warfare. Yes, like Joshua, we may on occasion fail to consult the Lord and get scammed. Our God's so skilled he can turn our blunder into a success story and that should add to our courage to face the next encounter. We can face life strong and of good courage because the Lord is on our side. Who can stand against Him? Absolutely no one!!!

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*Residing in Fort Worth, TX, Dr. Vanessa Dantzler Ussery is the Emeritus Pastor of Home Assembly Church in Los Angeles and currently serves as its Chief Executive Officer. She is also the founder of "Celebrate Change Ministries" and the author of "My Be Attitude: Who Be You?", which is available online in softcover or eBook at MyBeAttitude.org, Xulon Press, Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Dr. Ussery is available for national speaking engagements, empowerment seminars, and lectures.*

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