

Put your focus on God!

Introduction

Good morning everyone, this is now our eight messages which is being recorded during this lockdown period.

Praise God we are well and healthy, and God IS in control of everything!

And just in case you forgot, I want to remind everyone, God is still in CONTROL of everything but He is not the cause of what is happening in our world today, that is Satan, the god of this world causing all the heartache and pain BUT through every storm in our life, and the coronavirus is one of these storms, uncertainty of our future is another, and there are many more storms, yet through it ALL these storms, Our God, My God, Your God, He name is Jehovah, He is in control, and He is control of every outcome!

Be Strong

Today I want to use the story of Joshua to show you that we can be strong and courageous during times of trial no matter what the circumstances were, we can stay strong if we Put our Focus on God!

And so the title of my message this morning is, "Put your focus on God"

Notice this is an action, and only you can put your focus on God, in other words, you move your focus off the thing around you and you choose to put your focus or trust in God!

It is also an action in that we are commanded to be strong and of good courage.

Courage does not mean that you are brave and have no fear, but courage means that you are aware of the risks and take a step of faith and do it anyway like Peter when he stepped off the boat into the water – he knew the risks but he did it anyway because God told him to and although many of us remember that Peter sank and almost drowned, many of us miss the fact that he walked on water. **Matthew 14:29** *"²⁹ So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus."*

So let us look as our text this morning, it is found in **Joshua 1:2:-9** *"² "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel."*

Can you imagine the street that Joshua was having? Moses who had led Israel to the promised land and through God was able to do the most amazing miracles and was a great popular leader who had died and now Joshua was to succeed him as the leader of Israel.

Until this point, Joshua had only led the Israelite army into battles, but he had never led the whole nation and I am sure he was very concerned that he would not measure up to the leader that Moses was.

I am sure he had some fears and concerns especially when God said, Moses is DEAD! The finality must have set in quickly because immediately, God told Joshua, that Moses was dead, he was commanded by God to cross over the Jordan River.

This same Jordan river was in flood (**Joshua 3:15**) and he was to cross with all of Israel to take possession of the Promised Land!

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Joshua had seen Moses part the Red sea but now he needed to step up and do some miracle with the help of God to get across the Jordan River.

“³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. ⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. ⁵ No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.”

Any fear that Joshua had was dispelled as God told him what He was going to do:

- Every place that Joshua puts his foot, the Lord has ALREADY given to him.
- No man or army will be able to stand against him, all the days of your life
- That as God was with Moses so God would be with him too.

I guess Joshua must have thought of the huge shoes he needs to fill and that he still lacked the confidence that he would be able to do this.

Then God encourages Joshua again with these words,

”⁶ Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.”

Twice God says to Joshua, be strong and of good courage, but note the first time he needs to be strong and courageous for the Israelites who he would divide up the land.

The second time God says, be strong and very courageous to observe to do according to the Law, not turning left or right but right down the middle, or follow every letter of what God said in the law.

“⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

Look carefully at this passage which was the secret to Joshua’s and Israel’s future, and that was putting his focus on God and it is a guide to us today.

1. This book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth – Friends, This Word of God needs to be in your and my heart, it does not help if your Bible is on the bookshelf, it must be in your heart and mind, so that we are so full of it, that it flows out of our mouth.

The Word of God is EXTREMELY POWERFUL and is made to be SPOKEN out through your mouth!

2. You shall mediate on it, in other word this is the same as **Romans 12:2** say it like this, *”² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of*

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your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

We must allow the Word of God to reach into our way of thinking so that we change the way we reason and think and to start thinking like God or Godly thoughts and then we will be able to test/prove what is God’s acceptable will for you.

3. Then we need to DO WHAT The word says, or APPLY it in our life, this is the same that **James 1:22** says *“²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”*

We must never forget that we not only to read the Word of God but also we must apply the Word of God in our life.

The power is in DOING/APPLYING/LIVING OUT the Word of God in our life!

You can have all the electricity in the world coming into your house, but until you turn the switch on your will never have any light.

The same is true with the Word of God, The Word of God has the supernatural power to achieve every dream you can ever have but it will become a reality unless you turn the power of the Word of God on in your life and your turn it on by, Holding the Word of God in high regard, reading it, memorize it and applying it in your life and doing what it says.

Then the word says you will be prosperous and have success in all you do!

What an amazing promise, to all of us today!

“⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

God reminds Joshua that he has commanded him to be strong and of good courage and not be afraid (FEAR) or dismayed (HOPELESS) because the Lord God is with you wherever you go.

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So what has your focus on right now? What is causing you to be fearful or discouraged? What lie is the father of all lies (**John 8:44**), telling you and sadly you are believing.

Turn to God with all your heart, with confidence, and put your focus on God, remember you choose to do this, I cannot do it for you, it is like Salvation, only you can decide for yourself.

When you start to do that you when you start to turn to God and focus on Him, you will do the exploit that **Daniel 11:32** is talking about, because as you get to know God and His ways and start applying His Word in your life, and change your way of thinking into His Ways, you will have success.

Look at what people like David, who in the confidence and knowledge in God, he put his focus on God, was able to fight Goliath and win, and Gideon who took 300 men and through

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trusting in God and His Word and focusing on God and not men. He with God's help was able to defeat the Midianites he used fear and the Midianites killed each other in fear.

Look at Moses who submitted his life to doing God's Will and led the whole nation of Israel, from Slavery to the Promised land and through God's guidance he was able to defeat the mighty Egyptian army, it is a fact that Egypt never rose to be a major military force after this defeat!

All these men and many more saints, many more people have faced overwhelming odds and chosen to believe God and follow His leading and His Word and have overcome multiple obstacles.

Conclusion

If God did this for other people, He will do it for you because God shows no partiality according to **Acts 10:34-35** *³⁴ Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. ³⁵ But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.*

I want to call you to live at a higher level of living and that is to take your cares and burdens, **Matthew 11:28-30** *²⁸ Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

Lay all your burdens on Jesus Christ, receive the rest that He promises and put your trust and focus of God, which we call faith on God alone!

David said it like this, **Psalms 42:11** *¹¹ Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God."*

If David a might man of valour and a person after God's own heart had to put his focus on God, he said Hope in God / put your focus on God! If he needed to encourage himself we also need to do it ourselves.

Last week I said that God never promised us a future without any storm but He did promise to be with us through every storm we might faith.

This week I want you to turn your faith towards God, start to Praise Him, start to allow Hope to rise up and take your focus off the world and focus on God in faith and his power over everything, knowing that He IS in Control and He will help us.

God has promised a reward for our faith, **Hebrews 11:6**, so put your Trust/Faith in God!

Let us pray

Father, we praise You because You have a plan for each one of us. Help us, Lord, to take our focus off the world and all the negative bad news and help us to put our focus on You!

We declare that You can protect and keep us and we choose to put our focus on You alone. Help us to read, meditate and put Your Word into our heart so that we can live above the situations around us.

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We give You free rein in our lives and we ask to help us to put our trust in You!

Thank you, Jesus, that I can take my cares, my worries, my burdens and I can place them on You, so that I can be free to focus on God and not my problem or situations around me!

I commit to serving You with all my heart and I choose to put my focus, my attention on You and Your Word.

In Jesus Name, we pray

Amen

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Scriptures

Joshua 1:2:-9 ² “Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. ³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. ⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. ⁵ No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. ⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

Job 3:25 ²⁵ “For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, And what I dreaded has happened to me.”

Isaiah 41:8-13 ⁸ “But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, The descendants of Abraham My friend. ⁹ You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, And called from its farthest regions, And said to you, ‘You are My servant, I have chosen you and have not cast you away: ¹⁰ Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’ ¹¹ “Behold, all those who were incensed against you Shall be ashamed and disgraced; They shall be as nothing, And those who strive with you shall perish. ¹² You shall seek them and not find them—Those who contended with you. Those who war against you Shall be as nothing, As a non-existent thing. ¹³ For I, the LORD your God, will hold your right hand, Saying to you, ‘Fear not, I will help you.’”

Jeremiah 29:11-14 ¹¹ “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.”

Matthew 6:22-34 ¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²² “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. ²⁵ “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air, for

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they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? ²⁸ “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; ²⁹ and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

Matthew 11:25-30 *“²⁵ At that time Jesus answered and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. ²⁶ Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. ²⁷ All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. ²⁸ Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*

Matthew 14:22-33 *“²² Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. ²³ And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. ²⁴ But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. ²⁵ Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.” ²⁸ And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” ²⁹ So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”*

Acts 10:34-43 *“³⁴ Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. ³⁵ But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. ³⁶ The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all— ³⁷ that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. ⁴⁰ Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, ⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. ⁴² And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To*

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Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”

Romans 12:1-2 *“¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

2 Corinthians 8:8-12 *“⁸ I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. ¹⁰ And in this I give advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago; ¹¹ but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have. ¹² For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.”*

Philippians 4:17-19 *“¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. ¹⁸ Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. ²⁰ Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.”*

James 1:21-27 *“²¹ Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. ²⁶ If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. ²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”*