

wearing, and bring them to me," said Aaron. At that moment, Aaron lacked the faith, the strength, and the courage to stand for God. He also sought to make excuses when later confronted by Moses in **Exodus 32:21-24**.

Our hearts must be humble before our Almighty God, so that when we do sin we are willing to acknowledge our sin, pray for forgiveness, and repent. (**Psalm 51:1-4, 7-15; James 4:6-10**)

Joshua showed us that he was obedient toward all that God commanded him to do. **Joshua 11:15** *15 As the Lord had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that the Lord had commanded Moses.* In **Joshua 11:15** we see that Joshua carefully obeyed all the instructions that were given to him to do by God through his obedience. Obedience is repeated by Joshua as he went about in conquest of the promised land. He captured all their kings and struck them down; not one city made a treaty of peace with

the Israelites, who took them all in battle. In all the decisions that Joshua made in the conquest of the promised land, God was always at the center of his decisions. In taking a strong stand for God, Joshua displayed his spiritual zeal and leadership. Joshua feared the Lord and served Him with all faithfulness. Joshua gave the same farewell speech to the leaders and the Israelites before he died. **Joshua 24:14-15** *14 "Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the river and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! 15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."*

Have we chosen for ourselves whom we will serve?

By Bill Davis

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Faithful Sayings

Olsen Park Church of Christ

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Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
10:20 a.m.
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Pat Goguen
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Fred Perez
Rusty Scott

Evangelist:

Kyle Pope

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Be Strong & Very Courageous

Have you ever noticed *this man as a role that we, as young men, model?* What qualities will look up to certain should we see in men as our role models? someone we look to as a Our role model may be role model? In I our father or grandfather. **Corinthians 11:1**, the In our early years, he apostle Paul exhorted his may be a sports figure. readers, *"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am good man we work with, of Christ."* As young or a neighbor. Whoever men, we need to let a we choose as role godly man be our models, all of us as influence on how we young men need to have conduct our daily lives. a mature, godly man to This is a man whose life look up to and try to shows that he puts God learn from. In society first in his heart and life. today, we can get the A godly man will try to wrong impression help us and our families regarding who we should to know the Bible and be look to. On TV and in active in the work of the sports, we see so much church. This is someone of the worldly influence we can learn from and that we need to ask lean on when times get ourselves, *"Why do I see tough.*

A good place to find such men is in the Bible. These were men who put God first in their lives and walked with God daily; and their lives reflected this. In the scriptures, God has revealed to us many men of great faith. We can look to those who have lived before us as our role models. One such person was Joshua, for he showed godly reverence and courage; and he was obedient toward God in all his ways. Joshua was born a slave in Egypt and he was part of the exodus when all the children of Israel were freed from the cruelty of the Egyptians. Joshua went on that journey to the promised land. Joshua was Moses' assistant and successor. He was also one of the only two adults (**Num. 14:26-34**) who experienced the Egyptian slavery and lived to enter the promised land. Joshua and Caleb were the only two spies out of twelve sent who brought back a good report, who trusted God, and affirmed to the people that, *"If the Lord delight in us, then He will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey."* (**Num. 14:6-8**) Joshua led the Israelites into

their God-given promised homeland. Under God's direction, he was a brilliant military strategist. Joshua was with Moses on Mt. Sinai when God gave Moses the Ten Commandments and the Law. Joshua was faithful to ask for God's direction in the coming challenges he would face as he became the leader of the Israelites on their journey into the promised land. Joshua desired to do what was right before God; he was faithful in all that he did and his life showed it. In Joshua's faithfulness, God was with him in all that he did. When one reads the book of Joshua we see a phrase in the very first chapter that God encourages and commands Joshua to, *"Be strong and of good courage."* (**Joshua 1:6**) Joshua's life showed that he possessed these qualities and lived by this phrase, *"Only be strong and very courageous."* (**Joshua 1:7**)

As Christians, do we strive to live our lives as men such as Joshua did in the Old Testament days? Do we strive to have a spiritual mind, thus consecrating our bodies and our minds so that we can approach God with a pure heart and a sincere mind? Do we have

reverence toward God, that is, do we fear God as we go through our daily lives? Do we consider the name we carry as Christians? Do we fear God and put His will first in our homes as we raise our families? Do we, as men, fear God due to the responsibility we have in the work of the church? Work such as teaching God's Word, leading songs in praise and worship to God, serving at the Lord's table, and offering our prayers to God? Do we really know the Bible and let it have a positive effect on our hearts and our lives? Are we strong, godly leaders in our homes and in the church? We must be! Do we have the courage to not be afraid? Our battles are spiritual battles. Have we been diligent to put on the whole armor of God? (**Eph. 6:10-18**) Do we walk by faith in our everyday lives? (**Rom. 10:17; II Cor. 5:7**) Do we have the mind and heart to be strong and courageous when life gets tough and the whole world seems to turn on us? Do we know who to look to for strength? Is God our refuge and our strength? (**Psalms 46:1**) Are we strong and courageous when it comes to standing up for God's Word? Will

we teach the Bible in its purity or will we satisfy "itching ears" (**II Tim. 4:2-4**), accommodating the Word of God to the ways of the world, watering down the doctrine of Christ? Are we strong and courageous when it comes to leading our families in God's way, not the world's way? Do we stand up and say, *"But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."* (**Joshua 24:15**) This takes a lot of courage. This is not always popular and at times it will divide families. As a godly man you will have to make a stand, whether to serve the Lord or serve the devil; there is no other way around it. It is always easier to give in than to take a stand. In **Exodus 32**, we read about the time when the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, that they gathered around Aaron and said, *"Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt we don't know what has happened to him."* This should have been a "no-brainer" for Aaron, but he gave in. *"Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are*