

6. Encouragement for the Journey



Be Strong and Courageous

Message

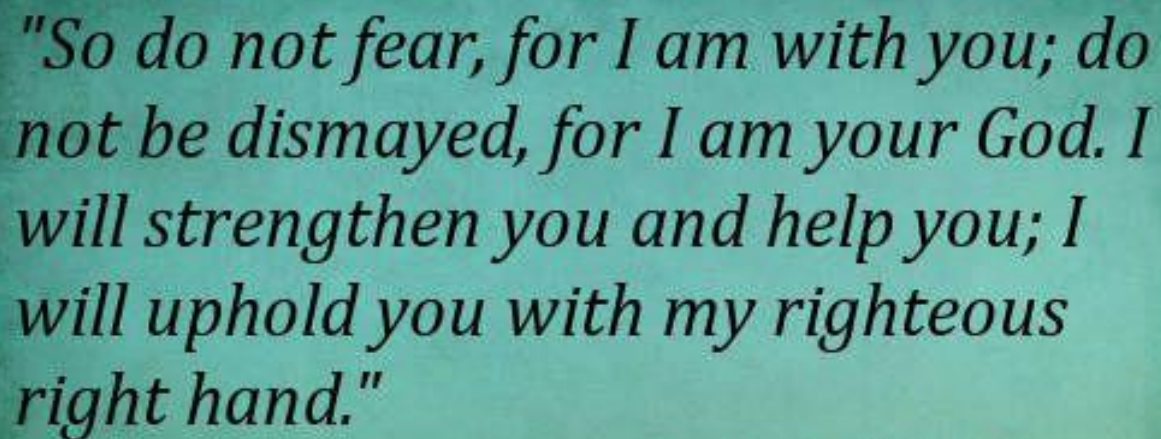
Recently I found myself regularly humming the tune of Colin Buchanan's *"Be Strong and Courageous"*. Each time, I recalled the period when I taught scripture at our grandchildren's primary school. I asked Kyle, who is now in high school, if he remembered it. He immediately sat down at the piano and played and sang it for me. Oh, how those memories flowed back.

But what do we know about Joshua and those words that appear above, beyond that he led God's people into the Promised Land? And what relevance do they have to the circumstances we currently find ourselves in?

The commands to be strong and courageous define the mission of Joshua and are from the Lord's words to Joshua as He commands him as His appointed leader over His people. The command to be strong and of good courage was for Joshua's encouragement and God repeated these words three times.

God's speech encouraging Joshua is a warm hearted, tender-hearted speech, assuring Joshua of His care, protection, and presence and urging him to obey His Law. It is a model of God graciously encouraging His servants, and its exhortations are still of value today; true success in life cannot occur apart from knowing and doing the will of God.

At times when our hearts feel fearful, courage is an honest and wonderful thing to pray for. It's a gift God provides as we depend on Him.



"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10

AMEN

With kind thoughts

Glenda