

The Kingdom's Table**THE YEAR OF
COURAGEOUS
PURSUIT**

After spending time in prayer to seek God's Word for 2010, he revealed to me that 2010 would be **"THE YEAR OF COURAGEOUS PURSUIT"**.

All around us is fear. Fear that the economy will not recover. Fear that terrorist will strike again. Fear of losing a job, home or health care. Fear of losing a loved one to violence. Why so much fear? Fear is a product of uncertainty.

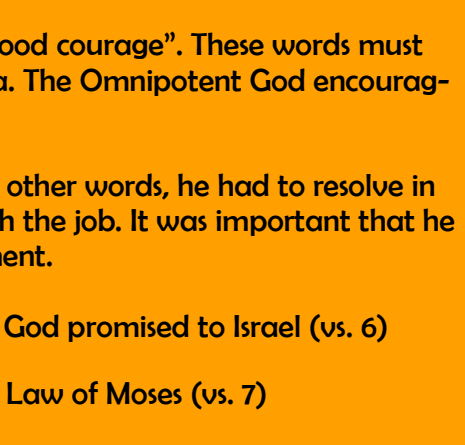
Uncertainty is mistrust due to unknown outcomes. When you don't know what will happen from one moment to the next, you live life uncertain of what to do and when to do it. Uncertainty leads to indecision because fear of the unknown will cause you to do nothing.

The normal response to fear is fight or flight. Fear can provoke you to attack that which frightens you, or it can provoke you to avoid that which frightens you. Either way, fear should elicit a response. However, fear can lead to a third response – paralysis. Uncertainty leads to fear. Fear leads to paralysis. Paralysis leads to certain defeat.

Isn't it ironic how uncertainty can lead to a certain defeat? Fighting affords you an opportunity to defeat that which causes you fear. Fleeing affords you an opportunity to escape that which causes you fear. But indecision affords your fear an opportunity to defeat you.

This was the choice that Joshua was confronted with in Joshua 1. Moses, the great leader of Israel, was dead. The children of Israel were on the precipice of invading a great foreign land in order to take possession of the territory God had promised them. It was into this historic setting that Joshua was called upon to lead God's people.

Joshua had to make a decision. Having served at Moses' side for forty years, he was the natural successor to lead Israel. Would he have the courage to step up to the plate? It was obvious he could never live up to Moses' celebrated legacy. How would he ever defeat the inhabitants of the land of Canaan who tower over Israel's army? Yet this moment was thrust upon him.



It is apparent that God knew Joshua was at a critical juncture in his life. No one would question his state of mind – Moses, Canaan and a rebellious people. But during this decisive moment in the life of Joshua, God speaks a word of encouragement.

God instructs Joshua to "be strong and of a good courage". These words must have sent electricity down the spine of Joshua. The Omnipotent God encouraging his servant to man up.

God wanted Joshua to be strong and firm. In other words, he had to resolve in his heart and mind that he was going to finish the job. It was important that he do so because God chose him for the assignment.

- He would divide the inheritance that God promised to Israel (vs. 6)
- He would have to be obedient to the Law of Moses (vs. 7)
- God was with him wherever he went (vs. 9)
- The people were totally behind him (vs. 18)

As we enter the first month of 2010, we too must be strong and of a good courage. Irrespective of what the elected officials in Washington D.C. or your state and local governments do, God demands courage.

No matter what your situation may be, you have a decision to make. You can stay and fight, you can run, or you can do nothing at all. If you do nothing at all your problems will become larger. If you run away, your problems will just overtake you. But if you face your problems with courage, your problems will become smaller because you know that God is with you.

I want to encourage you to face 2010 with a resolve and strength like never before. The vision or dreams that God has given you pursue them with all of your might. Make this year a year of courage, a year of certainty, a year of pursuit.

Pray for Me

*Prayer
Changes Things*

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www.hotsministries.com

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E-mail ichayes@hotsministries.com

or call 773-677-5454