



Passage: [Joshua 1:8-9](#)

Good morning! As we meditate on our passage this morning, there are a few things that may help direct our reflections and apply God's truth to our lives.

These two little packed verses come at the end of God's commissioning service for Joshua, if you will, after the death of Moses (verse 1). In fact the whole passage from verse one to verse nine is a pep talk full of God's promises ("I will not leave you or forsake you.") and instructions ("being careful to do according to all the law") to Joshua for leading His people. Verses eight and nine are a recap of the first seven verses. God really wanted Joshua to get this!

So what was God saying to Joshua?

First, God's instruction to constantly and deliberately meditate upon His Law. Not just in a quiet moment at the start of the day, but that it never be far from Joshua's thoughts. And why did Joshua need to be so well acquainted with God's law? So he would be in a position to guard it, to put it into practice in all situations, to guard against letting it slip under a virtual rug somewhere to be forgotten and never again to influence how the Israelites made their decisions and lived their lives.

And the results of this constant, deliberate meditation and adherence to God's law would be a successful, profitable, wise, and insightful ministry in leading the children of Israel. God had certainly promised to give Joshua and the Israelites "every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon" (v. 3), but the success of which He speaks here is not solely physical. Joshua's progress and success in leading the children of Israel would be found in the wise prudence and insight he could gain only from constant meditation upon, desire for, and utterance of God's great Law and from his deliberate attention to following it completely. God's law answers all needs. Deliberate meditation upon it and application of it is the means to progress and is the success itself.

After these simple instructions and the promises that would be gleaned in their application, God reminds Joshua to be "strong and courageous." The Hebrew for strong ([chazaq](#)) means "to grow firm, be resolute, be secure, be sore." Just as physical exercise works muscles into lean, firm tools for our use, so does the exercise of discipline in meditating upon and following all of God's law work our faith and obedience into secure, firm tools for use by our Father in the carrying out of His plans through us and by us as we become more closely and firmly grafted into Him. This total reliance upon God's law to instruct and make wise, could also be relied upon to make Joshua bold, determined and persistent in his calling. Even in the most excruciating of times in his appointed position, Joshua would never need to fear or be completely shattered and broken over his circumstances, "for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

So much to meditate on and apply to our lives here! Knowing Scripture intimately, constantly seeking the Lord's direction, allows us to make decisions fairly quickly with confidence of God's wisdom at work in our hearts. God's Word makes us wise! The more deeply entrenched we are in God's Word and the more we do what we know, the stronger our faith muscles become and the bolder and more confident and more resolute we become in seeing God's kingdom come to fruition here on earth in whatever our circumstances. Is your appointed position in life that of a student? An employee or employer? Are you a mom/wife? Whatever your appointed circumstance today, the meditation on and application of God's Word will give you joy in the obeying and wisdom in the carrying out of your tasks. Do it for the spread of God's kingdom and for His glory, not for your own, knowing that He will never leave you or forsake you. He is with you wherever you go. May this be so in my life, Lord!