

# Stretching our Imagination

Have you ever imagined how God could use you?

*Ephesians 3:20 (ncv) With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine.*

By stretching our imaginations, we can discover how God can use us in ways we never thought of.

**Four lessons from the life of Joshua how to be used by God.**

*Joshua 1:1-11 (niv)*

## **1. Deal with Doubt.**

Doubt can restrict our potential of what could be. Doubt causes procrastination.

Joshua had a doubt problem. He was not self confident in what God called him to do.

Joshua was called to be Moses's successor.

*Deuteronomy 34:12 (cev) No one else has ever had the power to do such great things as Moses did for everyone to see.*

We know Joshua wasn't super confident with his assignment.

God gives him a little pep talk and says *Be bold and strong! Banish fear and doubt! For remember, the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9 (tlb)*

Doubt and faith are both choices!

**Two things that can cause us to doubt.**

- **Comparing ourselves with others.**

God wants us to be us and to make ourselves available to use the gifts and abilities He has given us to fulfil His purposes.

- **Remembering our past failures.**

If we keep looking into the rear vision mirror of our mistakes and failures, we will never focus on how God can use us into the future.

*Be bold and strong! Banish fear and doubt! For remember, the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9 (tlb)*

**2. Trust in what God Promises.**

*Joshua 1:3 (ncv) I promised Moses I would give you this land, so I will give you every place you go in the land.*

If God makes a promise to use us and we participate with Him, He **WILL** use us – God cannot lie!

*Joshua 23:14 (gnb) Now my time has come to die. Every one of you knows... that God has given you all the good things that He promised. Every promise He made has been kept; not one has failed.*

*Joshua 1:8 (ncv) Always remember what is written in this Book... Study it day and night to be sure to obey everything that is written there. If you do this, you will be wise and successful in everything.*

**Three promises that God gave Joshua are for us too as we serve Him.**

- He promises to give us strength. *“No one will be able to stand against you.” Joshua 1:5*
- He promises to give us success. *“You will be successful.” Joshua 1:7*
- He promises to give us support. *“I will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9*

### **3. Lean on God for Stability.**

When we lean on God, we are trusting Him and depending upon Him to hold us up.

*Joshua 1:5 (ncv) No one will be able to defeat you all your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forget you.*

*Proverbs 3:5-6 (nas) Trust in the Lord with all your heart. And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him. And He will make your paths straight.*

Leaning on God can be scary and uncomfortable. Leaning onto God in faith is trusting that He will hold us up and keep us stable.

## **4. Step out in Faith.**

*Joshua 1:10-11 (tlb) Then Joshua issued instructions to the leaders to tell the people to get ready to cross the Jordan River.*

In *Joshua 3* There we read that the Jordan River was flooded at the time when they were to cross.

**This was a test of their faith.**

The leaders stepped into the water and God performed a miracle and dammed the water upstream, the water receded and all the people crossed.

**What is your Jordan river to cross?**

What is that barrier in front of you preventing you from doing what God has called you to do?

The first step can be the hardest. Courage isn't acting in the absence of fear but when fear is present!

Faith is present once we take that **FIRST** step.

There is no greater thrill than being used by God for His purposes.

*Ecclesiastes 11:4 (tlb) If you wait for perfect conditions, you'll never get anything done!*

*Ephesians 3:20 (msg) God can do anything, you know far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, His Spirit deeply and gently within us.*