

INTRODUCTION 引言

Youth Sunday is a joyful moment for our church. We thank God for His blessings to our youth ministry, and we bless our graduates who are going to college. Every transition—college, a new job, even retirement—brings change and challenge. Joshua was facing a transition too. Moses had died, and Joshua received the baton to lead Israel into Canaan. The past forty years was a training course for Joshua. He saw God's faithfulness despite people's sinfulness. There was victory when they obeyed, and discipline when they rebelled. The key to success was clear: follow God. Whatever difficulty lies ahead of us, the solutions are the same—trust God, obey Him and walk with Him. If you are in a stage of transition, I hope that this message will be an encouragement to you.

EXPLANATION 解釋

1. Obedience 順服

The first thing God reminded Joshua was obedience to His Word. Look at verse 8 again: **“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”** God gave Joshua three simple commands. First, keep God's Word on his lips. He could read it aloud and include it in his prayer. Second, think about it. He should let God's Word sink into his mind. It would direct his thoughts and decision-making. Third, do it. He must follow God's instructions. If Joshua stayed faithful in all three areas, he would be effective in his works. God did not give Joshua a battle manual or a map of Canaan but His Law. Victory would come from obedience, not military strategy. Like an athlete who keeps his eyes on the finish line, Joshua had to focus on the goal so that he could minimize distractions. Today, God gives us the Bible. It does not tell you how to finish a school project, a work assignment, or plan your retirement. But it gives you wisdom on how to face challenges, how to treat people, how to follow God. If you keep returning to God's principles, it will help you face daily life with strength and a clear mind.

2. Endurance 堅持

Secondly, Joshua had to show courageous endurance. Three times in verses 6, 7, and 9, God told him, **“Be strong and courageous.”** Each repetition carried a promise for Joshua: he would enter Canaan (v. 6); He would succeed in all he did (v. 7); God would be with him wherever he went (v. 9). God repeated the same message because it was important to Joshua. His task would be hard. There were battles ahead, cities to conquer, unknowns to face, and internal conflicts to resolve. Joshua learned from the failure of the previous generation. They let fear weaken their faith. Therefore, courageous endurance would be essential to winning. Courage is not the absence of fear; but courage can overcome fear. Fear alerts us to danger and reminds us to depend on God. We may have fear, but we do not have to panic. We calmly evaluate the situation, remember God's past help, recall His promises, and tap on His strength. God is always

there to help us. Today, God gives us the same assurance found in verse 9: “**The Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**” God’s Word will never fail. He leads ahead of you, cheers beside you, and supports you from behind. He is our most faithful friend.

3. Influence 影響

God reminded Joshua about obedience to His Word and endurance with courage. Joshua put those principles into practice. That led to influence in his leadership. Immediately after God spoke, Joshua commanded his subordinates in verse 11: “**Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, ‘Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving you to possess.’**” Joshua told the people to get ready. After years of waiting, they were finally about to receive the land God promised their ancestors. It was more than a military campaign; it was a spiritual mission. The Israelites knew the previous generation failed because they disobeyed God. Now they must make up their minds to rely on Him completely. Joshua’s faith was powerful. But people could not see his faith until he acted upon it. A true leader turns vision into action. God promised to give them Canaan, but they still had to fight every battle. Joshua motivated and mobilized them to step forward, even though they did not know how everything would unfold. One operation after another—crossing the Jordan, conquering Jericho—they saw God was truly with them, and their faith grew as a result. Yes, there would be defeat and setbacks. Those moments were opportunities to reflect and repent. Godly leaders will not dwell on mistakes. But they will point followers back to the right path. Since Canaan was God’s plan, it would be fulfilled in His timing and by His ways.

CONCLUSION 結論

Joshua was promoted from a learner to a leader. Every training prepared him for real-life challenges. Astronaut Chris Hadfield would agree. Both men faced similar situations. Joshua entered Canaan; Hadfield flew into outer space and served on the International Space Station. Hadfield recapped what he learned in the book “An Astronaut’s Guide to Life on Earth.” Hadfield says astronauts follow checklists strictly because those instructions keep them safe. Obedience to God’s Word protects us from harm as we follow His directions. Hadfield also explains that emergency simulations help astronauts control fear. The Bible has a similar effect to potential fear. Stories of endurance in the Bible reveal God’s faithfulness. The victories of the heroes of faith build our courage and reduce fears. The same God who helped them in the past will also help us today. Hadfield adds that astronauts must rely on one another for the whole crew to reach their goals. One person’s calmness and wise decisions can positively influence everyone. In a spiritual community, we must also constantly encourage one another. Each believer’s growth will influence the whole church. Obedience, endurance, and influence—these are the three qualities every current and future leader must possess. Every transition in life can be an opportunity to increase our faith and make us effective instruments for God’s Kingdom.

INTRODUCTION 引言

青年主日是我們教會充滿喜樂的時刻。我們感謝神在青年事工中的祝福，也祝福即將升上大學的畢業生。每一個轉變，無論是升學、換工作，甚至退休——都帶來改變與挑戰。約書亞也面對一個過渡時期。摩西已經去世，約書亞拿到接力棒，準備帶領以色列人進入迦南。過去四十年是約書亞的訓練時期。他看見神的信實，雖然百姓常常犯罪。當他們順服時就得勝，悖逆時就受管教。成功的關鍵很明顯：就是跟隨神。無論前面有什麼困難，解決的原則都一樣——信靠神、順服祂、與祂同行。如果你正身處於轉變之中，我希望這篇信息能成為你的鼓勵。

EXPLANATION 解釋

1. Obedience 順服

神提醒約書亞的第一件事，就是要順服祂的話語。再看第 8 節：「**這律法書不可離開你的口，總要晝夜思想，好使你謹守遵行這書上所寫的一切話。如此，你的道路就可以亨通，凡事順利。**」神給了約書亞三個簡單的命令。第一：把神的話放在口中。他可以大聲誦讀，也可以在禱告中引用神的應許和命令。第二：思想神的話。他要讓神的話語深入心中，引導他的思考與決定。第三：遵行神的話。他必須照著神的吩咐去做。若約書亞在這三方面都忠心，他的工作就會有果效。神不是給約書亞一本戰略手冊，或是迦南地的地圖，而是給了他神的律法。真正的得勝來自順服，而不是軍事策略。就像運動員專注在終點上，約書亞也必須專注於目標，才能減少分心。今天，神把聖經賜給我們。它不會告訴你如何完成學校的作業、工作的任務，或如何計劃退休，但它會給你智慧——如何面對挑戰、如何與人相處、如何跟隨神。如果你不斷回到神的原則，它能給你力量和清醒的頭腦來面對每天的生活。

2. Endurance 堅持

第二，約書亞必須展現勇敢的堅持。在第 6、7、9 節中，神三次對約書亞說：「**你要剛強壯膽。**」每一次都帶著一個應許：他必然進入迦南 (第 6 節)；他必然凡事順利 (第 7 節)；無論他往哪裡去神必然都與他同在 (第 9 節)。神反覆強調這句話，是因為這對約書亞極其重要。他的任務非常艱巨——前面有要打的仗、要攻取的城、要面對的未知，以及要處理的內部衝突。約書亞從上一代的失敗中汲取教訓：他們讓恐懼消耗了信心。因此，勇敢的堅持是得勝的關鍵。勇氣不是沒有恐懼；但勇氣能勝過恐懼。恐懼使我們警覺有危險，也提醒我們要依靠神。我們可能會害怕，但

不需要驚慌。我們可以冷靜評估情況，回憶神過去的幫助，記住祂的應許，並支取祂的力量。神總是在需要的時候扶持我們。今天，神也賜給我們同樣的應許——第 9 節說：「你無論往那裡去，耶和華你的神必與你同在。」神的話永不落空。祂在你前面引導你，在你旁邊鼓勵你，在你背後支持你。祂是我們最忠實的朋友。

3. Influence 影響

神提醒約書亞要順服祂的話語，也要以勇氣堅持到底。約書亞把這些原則付諸行動，因而在領導上產生強大的影響力。在神說完話之後，約書亞立刻在第 11 節吩咐他的下屬：「你們要走遍營中，吩咐百姓說：『當預備食物；因為三日之內你們要過這約但河，進去得耶和華你們神賜你們為業之地。』」約書亞要百姓做好準備。經過多年的等待，他們終於要得著神應許給祖先的土地。這不只是一場軍事行動，更是一場屬靈的使命。以色列人知道上一代失敗是因為不順服神，現在他們必須立定心志，全然依靠祂。約書亞的信心非常強大，但人們必須看到他把信心行出來。真正的領袖會把異象化為行動。神已應許要把迦南賜給他們，但他們仍然要打一場又一場的戰役。約書亞激勵並動員百姓向前邁進，雖然他們還不知道事情會如何發展。一次行動接著一次行動——過約旦河、攻取耶利哥——他們看見神確實與他們同在，於是他們的信心不斷增長。當然，往後也會有失敗和挫折。那些時刻是反思與悔改的機會。敬虔的領袖不會停留在錯誤中，而是會帶領跟隨者回到正確的道路。既然迦南是神的心意，那麼這計畫必定會在祂的時間、用祂的方式成就。

CONCLUSION 結論

約書亞從學員被提升為領袖。他所接受的訓練都在預備他面對真實的挑戰。太空人克里斯·哈德菲爾德 (Chris Hadfield) 也會同意這一點。他們兩個人都面對類似的情況。約書亞進入迦南；哈德菲爾德飛到外太空，並在國際太空站服役。哈德菲爾德在《太空人在地球的生活指南》一書中總結了他學到的功課。他說，太空人必須嚴格檢查清單，因為那些指示能確保他們的安全。順服神的話語也同樣能保護我們，使我們免受傷害。哈德菲爾德也解釋，緊急狀況的模擬訓練能幫助太空人克服恐懼。聖經對潛在的恐懼也有同樣的功效。聖經人物堅持的故事顯明神的信實；信心英雄的得勝能建立我們的勇氣，減少我們的恐懼。過去曾經幫助他們的神，今天也在幫助我們。哈德菲爾德補充說，太空人必須彼此依靠，整個團隊才能達到目標。一個人的冷靜與有智慧的決定能正面影響其他人。在屬靈的群體中，我們也必須不斷彼此鼓勵。每一位信徒的成長都會影響整個教會。順服、堅持、影響力——是每一位現在與未來的領袖都必須具備的三個特質。人生中的每一次轉變，都是信心長進、並成為神國度中更有效器皿的機會。