

Daily Devotional, January 15, 2021 **Courage to Face Each Day**

“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸ Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:7-9 (NIV)

One of the great temptations of life is to think that we can do it all by ourselves. It is true that working with others, relying on others, even living with others, can often be a struggle. We don't always see eye to eye with one another. Our differences can drive a wedge between us. The frustration from being with others, even those whom we love, can often push us away into solitude. Our relationships, which are so often a joy, can quickly become a burden.

The same thing is often true for our life of faith. Frequently, life is full of joy and peace, but there are times when joy and peace seem to be nothing more than a distant dream. The struggles that we endure each day and the weighty demands of work, family, and other obligations in life are almost more than we can endure. In those overbearing, busy times, we are tempted to leave God off of our schedules. We neglect to utilize the gift of prayer, worship, and our devotional time due to our business and lack of focus—which is our connection and communication with our Lord.

We were not created to live life on our own. We are better when we are with others. We are at our best when we are connected to God. We are at our worst when we try to go it alone. The good news is that God has promised we are not alone. Even when we push away, God is with us. When Joshua and the Jewish people were about to cross into the Promised Land, fear crept into the camp. Rumors began to spread about the dangers they would face on the other side of the river. God offered them this promise, “The LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

In these difficult times, when we feel cut off from our loved ones and the rest of the world, we often turn inward and forget this beautiful promise. When we connect with God and our neighbors, we are reminded that we are not walking this difficult journey of life alone. Not only are there those who look out for our best interests, our safety and security and our better welfare through their love and concern for us, but God is always standing by, making certain that we are never alone, on our own with nowhere to turn. This will make all the difference in how we handle frustration, temptation, and the daily demands of life. Knowing God is always nearby makes our worries flee and makes our lives complete.

Prayer: Dear Lord, You know that we live in a crazy and chaotic world. You also know the struggles that I deal with in my daily life. When life gets to be too much, please help me to come to you. Calm my thoughts and emotions and open my heart to your peace, comfort, and wisdom. Help me not to live in fear, but please reduce the feelings of fear and anxiety that plague me. Help me rest in You and trust You as I navigate through this broken world that needs to know you. In Your name I pray, Jesus. Amen.