

# Truths to Trust when *Times are a Changin'*

Eternal, Enduring Constants in the face of Change – from Joshua 1:1-11

Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher, said: “change is the only constant in life”. Change can be hard, and scary, and exciting. When the status quo becomes “uh oh!”, when the familiar become unknowns, fear and anxiety can creep in. Thankfully, we have God - His unchanging nature and Word: “For I am the Lord, I change not...” (Malachi 3:6 - KJV).

In today’s passage, the LORD is encouraging, and exhorting Joshua. He has the daunting task of picking up Moses’ staff, and trying to fill his sandals. The people of Israel followed Moses out of Egypt and around the wilderness for 40 years. But now, Moses is dead (c. 1405 B.C.). *But God is not!* His plans and purposes for His people remain.

After time to absorb the news, and grieve (see Deuteronomy 34), the Lord speaks to Joshua, Moses’ apprentice. He blesses and bolsters Joshua with powerful words to help him lead through this transition. The hope and encouragement given to Joshua and the Lord’s people offer the same to us. Let’s learn from the Lord’s timeless truths to help us trust when change again comes our way.

## Eternal Constants in Times of Change

### **God and His Mission No Not Change** (vs. 1-5)

- Accept it: Leaders, conditions change (vs. 1, 2)
- God Keeps His Promises, Fulfills His Plans (vs. 3, 4)
- God Still Protects His People (vs. 5; Romans 8)
- The Lord is still with His People (vs. 5b; Matthew 2:18-2)

### **We Can, and Must Be Strong and Courageous** (vs. 6)

- It is necessary to wait on, trust the Lord to keep His word (cf. 2 Peter)
- It is necessary to keep, obey His word. *Obedience requires courage!*

### **Above All: Follow All of His Word** (vs. 7-9)

- Obey with great care and courage! Scrupulously! See Psalm 119!
- Don’t Change, or Deviate from His Perfect Playbook (Psalm 1; Rev. 22:18 -20) “I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.” (Jude 3)
- Have it in your heart, mind, mouth – make it an earworm! (Ps. 1; 119)
  - Have to know it to do it (John 8:30-32; Col. 3:17, 18)
  - Obedience brings blessing (John 15:1-7; James 1:22)
  - His Word builds courage, fights discouragement, reminds of His presence

### **Don't Stay Camped where you Were (vs. 10, 11)**

- When it is time, "*Head 'em up, move 'em out!*"
- Faith and Courage are Contagious: *be infectious!*
- This is a team endeavor. Go with God's people, as He goes with you.
- Remember your (His) "why"!

## **For Further Application and Growth:**

**Take Heart!** God's Plan, Promises and Purposes are eternal (Matthew 28:18-20)

### **Keep the past in perspective (Phil. 3:13-14)**

- Recognize and Appreciated those who went before (Heb. 13:7, 17)
- Respect and Build on past, but don't bow down to, be ruled by
- Learn from it, but don't mindlessly repeat it, unless guided by God
- Change is not the same as improvement. Think about that!

**"Moses My servant..."** What a lofty eulogy. Let's live to hear God say: "well done, good & faithful servant..." to us (Matthew 25:23)

**Be scrupulous about knowing, obeying, not changing** God's Word (Psalm 1, Psalm 119)

**What prompts and promises do you need to reclaim** so you can move ahead in obedience?

**Confidently act on God's** promises, provisions, & protection, knowing God is with you (Phil. 4:11-19)

"Keep your life free from the love of money. Be satisfied with what you have, for he himself has said, I will never leave you or abandon you.

Therefore, we may boldly say,

The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can man do to me?"

(Hebrews 13:5, 6 – CSB; cf. Ps 27:1; 56:4, 11; 118:6)

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