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Dear Friends,

The Joshua Experience!

What is it? Do you want it? What are you prepared to do to get it?

It is known as VICTORY and Good SUCCESS! See Joshua 1:7-8; and the secret of success is found in Joshua 1:5-9.

Josh 1:5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.

Josh 1:6 Be strong (confident) and of good courage, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

Josh 1:7 Only you be strong and very courageous, that you may do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you. Turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

Josh 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe and do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely and have good success.

Josh 1:9 Have not I commanded you? Be strong, vigorous, and very courageous. Be not afraid, neither be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua, probably rates at the top of the spectrum of "successful" people, in scripture! But, I believe there is a valuable lesson to be learned from Joshua. In the margin of my Bible it says that - This is the only place in the early English versions where the word "success" is found. The secret of success is given in verses 5 through 9. Joshua accepted Moses' place of leadership WITHOUT misgiving. (Misgiving means... a feeling of doubt or apprehension about the outcome or consequences of something.) God's will for him was his (Joshua's) will, and he did NOT hesitate. To go "all out" for God was already HABITUAL (done constantly; out of habit) with him; it is the unfailing prerequisite of eternal success!!! N.B.

Well – on thinking about that, and relating it to my own life and ministry, and to those around me – I decided that there are **two major contributing factors to our "Joshua experience" and "good success"**.

One – was that he was NEVER double-minded. (See James 1:6-8, below). Hence he was **NEVER UNSURE** of what He was asked to do, nor, how he would respond to those instructions – regardless of the circumstances, or any lack of obvious solutions. **In other words he KNEW what it was to WALK by FAITH and NOT by SIGHT!** And ...

Two – He had practised being OBEDIENT to authority! Those are "fittest" to RULE – that have learnt to OBEY... Matthew Henry describes Joshua's command like this... **He that was to succeed Moses was INTIMATELY ACQUAINTED WITH him, that he might FULLY KNOW his doctrine and manner of life, his purpose and long-suffering; (see 2 Tim 3:10-11 below), might take the same measures, walk in the same spirit, in the same steps, having to carry on the same work. (This is a great example of spiritual unity).**
2Timothy 3:10 says...

2Tim 3:10 Now you have closely observed and diligently followed my teaching, conduct, purpose in life, faith, patience, love, steadfastness,

2Tim 3:11 Persecutions, sufferings... persecutions I endured, but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

And... James 1:6-8 says...

James 1:6 Only it must be in faith that he asks with no wavering (no hesitating, no doubting). For the one who wavers (hesitates, doubts) is like the billowing surge out at sea that is blown hither and thither and tossed by the wind.

James 1:7 For truly, let not such a person imagine that he will receive anything [he asks for] from the Lord,

James 1:8 [For being as he is] a man of two minds (hesitating, dubious, irresolute), [he is] unstable and unreliable and uncertain about everything [he thinks, feels, decides].

These are Christ's instructions to ALL who believe, and who want to emulate (to imitate) Joshua, (and THE Christ, he represented), and his Victorious Successes!

Joshua had been given his instructions in verse 2 – where God had said... "Moses My servant is dead. So NOW ARISE (take his place), GO OVER this Jordon, you and all this people..." Though there was a great expanse of water, and no bridge to walk across – never-the-less, he NEVER hesitated at giving the instruction by FAITH, for them to GO! **He simply OBEYED without HESITATION!** And if you go on to Chapter 3, 4 and 5 you can read the entire account of Joshua's obedience, and the miraculous transition of that huge number of people, across the dry pathway, of the river bed floor, that ONLY a God of promise, to a trusted and faithfully obedient servant – could DELIVER! No-one missing; No-one broken; No-one lost! Remember He had told Joshua in verse 5... **"As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you."** Wouldn't you like to walk and operate every day, in that same assurance, victory and success?

Can you imagine the mess – if Joshua had hesitated at all – to DO as God had instructed? There would have been about 40,000 dead bodies floating in the Jordon... the result of DISOBEDIENCE! Just as James 1:7 reminded us... **"...let not such a person imagine that he will receive anything [he asks for] from the Lord..."** Are you getting

the picture? "Such a person" refers to the double-minded man; the person who hesitates to OBEY! Remember the three Questions I started this letter with?

What is it? Do you want it? What are you prepared to do to get it?

If you WANT what Joshua had – you have to DO what Joshua did!

He had practised long and hard, to get his impersonation of Moses correct; just as Moses had imitated Christ, in his obedience and leadership. Joshua's years in training, and preparation, for this very occasion, had just earned him a "well done - thou good and faithful servant" from the Lord; respect from his people, (who now understood that what the Lord had said, had now come to pass right before their eyes); and most of all he had brought glory to God, through his habitual steadfastness, and instant, and unquestioned obedience! So – are you prepared to DO as Joshua DID? When did you last INSTANTLY OBEY the instructions of God in your life? Do you even KNOW what his instructions are?

In 2 Tim 3:14-17 we LEARN WHAT IT IS we have to DO to achieve the same result as Joshua achieved. It starts off by saying – "But as for you...!" Yep – YOU! No ambiguity there! He IS TALKING to YOU! And He goes on to explain Himself very clearly, in the four verses quoted here... so that you may be "complete and proficient, well fitted and thoroughly equipped for EVERY GOOD WORK!"

Now – what part of that did you NOT understand? If you have NOT forgotten to "...closely observe and diligently follow His teaching..." (2 Tim 3:10), and have been sure you are "NEVER DOUBLE-MINDED...", (James 1:8), you should be able to go on here in 2 Tim 3:14-17 and crown your "every good work" (2 Tim 3:17) of obedience to Christ, with Victorious Success! Hallelujah!

2Tim 3:14 But as for you, continue to hold to the things that you have learned and of which you are convinced, knowing from whom you learned [them],

2Tim 3:15 And how from your childhood you have had a knowledge of and been acquainted with the sacred Writings, which are able to instruct you and give you the understanding for salvation which comes through faith in Christ Jesus [through the leaning of the entire human personality on God in Christ Jesus in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness].

2Tim 3:16 Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action),

2Tim 3:17 So that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work.

I have concluded this letter of 'encouragement and edification' to you with Psalms 119: 1-16. Here, David (NOT unlike Joshua), looks back with comfort, upon the respect he had paid to the Word of God. He had the testimony of his conscience for him... That he had edified others with what he had been taught out of the Word of God...and he showed how full he was of the Word of God, and what a holy delight he took in his acquaintance with it; when he said – "for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks."

And... That he had entertained himself with it: "Lord, teach me thy statutes; for I desire no greater pleasure than to know and do them (Psalm 119:14): I have rejoiced in the way of thy commandments, in a constant even course of OBEDIENCE to thee..." He

was very clear that he wanted NO willful wandering from His precepts (verse 3); that **He recognised and respected** that they were ALL COMMANDS - and not just suggestions, (verse 4); that he wanted NO wandering or side-stepping (either in ignorance or willfully) from those same COMMANDS – ever (verse 10); and that he would meditate upon, have respect for, delight himself in, and NEVER forget – God's Word to him!

Can you SAY - as DAVID, and JOSHUA, said – I will meditate upon; have respect for; delight myself in; and NEVER forget Your Words to me, Lord? If SO – you will have GOOD SUCCESS in your EVERY GOOD WORK!

Nothing missing! Nothing broken! Nothing Lost! That should set you FREE! Amen!

Psa 119:1 BLESSED (HAPPY, fortunate, to be envied) are the undefiled (the upright, truly sincere, and blameless) in the way [of the revealed will of God], who walk (order their conduct and conversation) in the law of the Lord (the whole of God's revealed will).

Psa 119:2 Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) are they who keep His testimonies, and who seek, inquire for and of Him and crave Him with the whole heart.

Psa 119:3 Yes, they do no unrighteousness [no willful wandering from His precepts]; they walk in His ways. [I John 3:9; 5:18.]

Psa 119:4 You have commanded us to keep Your precepts, that we should observe them diligently.

Psa 119:5 Oh, that my ways were directed and established to observe Your statutes [hearing, receiving, loving, and obeying them]!

Psa 119:6 Then shall I not be put to shame [by failing to inherit Your promises] when I have respect to all Your commandments.

Psa 119:7 I will praise and give thanks to You with uprightness of heart when I learn [by sanctified experiences] Your righteous judgments [Your decisions against and punishments for particular lines of thought and conduct].

Psa 119:8 I will keep Your statutes; O forsake me not utterly.

Psa 119:9 How shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed and keeping watch [on himself] according to Your word [conforming his life to it].

Psa 119:10 With my whole heart have I sought You, inquiring for and of You and yearning for You; Oh, let me not wander or step aside [either in ignorance or willfully] from Your commandments. [II Chron. 15:15.]

Psa 119:11 Your word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

Psa 119:12 Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes.

Psa 119:13 With my lips have I declared and recounted all the ordinances of Your mouth.

Psa 119:14 I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies as much as in all riches.

Psa 119:15 I will meditate on Your precepts and have respect to Your ways [the paths of life marked out by Your law]. [Ps. 104:34.]

Psa 119:16 I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

Till next month, From my house to yours,

Blessings of the abundant kind!

Leila Nord.

