



**"This is my command-be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9 NLT)**  
**"Don't ever be afraid or discouraged!" (Joshua 1:9 CEV)**

The Lord, with a distinct purpose, spoke these words to Joshua in his military commissioning before leading Israel's military campaign into the promise land and their conquering of numerous foreign armies. When Joshua heard these words of encouragement and honor, I believe he understood their outer meaning, but it wasn't until after he was a combat veteran that he understood their full depth, revelation, and meaning meant for him, where these words literally echoed through his soul.

Being strong and courageous, never being afraid or discouraged, doesn't come to its full magnitude of meaning in a time of peace or to someone who sits behind a desk or has never been to war. These words do hold their application; however, they can come alive when men are trying to kill you. They hold more significance to warriors in this context, and it is similar to how the Lord used them in Joshua's life.

Be strong and courageous, never be afraid or discouraged in your mental attitude, when your battle buddy right next to you has just been shot and is wounded. With a tear in your eye you know the Lord is speaking to your heart saying, "I am here to help you rise up and attack the enemy."

Be strong and courageous, never be afraid or discouraged in your mental attitude, when your Humvee has just been blown up by an IED and you have been thrown from your vehicle. All you see is that you are surrounded by a huge cloud of debris as you get over the initial shock of the explosion and you realize that dirt is sprinkling your skin from the barrage of rounds from the oncoming enemy ambush. You become conscious that you can't hear a thing due to ringing in your ears from your own gunfire, and everything you see is so surreal. Then the Lord speaks to your heart, "I will be there to help you overcome these circumstances and lead you to victory."

Applying the principle of being strong and courageous, never being afraid or discouraged, is something you can take with you down every road of life, and you should, but sometimes it means a little more to a warrior, like Joshua, like you, in a time of distress.

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**Warriors' Faith**<sup>sm</sup>  
**Ministries**