



My Confidence Is Coming Back | Shawn Johnson | 09.09.2023

Weekly Study

SHARE

This weekend Pastor Shawn Johnson kicked off a brand new seven-week series called *Alive & Free*. John 10:10 says, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I [Jesus] have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” Our hope is that this series heals old wounds, restores faith in God’s promise, builds bold confidence and inspires action that propels you from the former half of John 10:10 to the latter. This life wasn’t meant to be “endured” until we reach Heaven; Jesus came so that we may have life and life to the full - in this life and the next. Are you ready to get your confidence back?

If you walked into a room and everyone you’ve ever met in your entire life was there, who would you go find first and why?

What season of your life were you the most confident you’ve ever been? What thoughts, feelings, emotions, abilities and external factors contributed to your confidence?

GROW

Leviticus 26:3-4 ESV Joshua 1:1-9 NIV

The beginning of Joshua isn’t just a simple transition of leadership between Moses and Joshua, it’s a deeply symbolic shift in God’s approach towards inviting us into a relationship with Him that points to the Gospel. Under Moses, the Law was given, and the Israelites believed that perfect living according to the law was the only way they would experience God’s favor. Ex: “If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them, then I will give you your rain in their season” (Leviticus 26:3-4). They completely misunderstood God’s heart. What the Lord was really saying was, “Hey, I created you and know what’s in your best interest. If you abide by these commands you will experience life and blessings beyond anything you could ever imagine,” but the Israelites misinterpreted this into, “If you behave, and only if, then I will bless you.” So, they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years with this mentality, failing

repeatedly because they were walking by sight. The second they couldn't see his presence or his provision (pillar of fire or cloud of smoke; water from a rock, manna from the sky, parting of the Red Sea, etc.) they started to panic and look to themselves and false gods to provide for them. They had no confidence that the Lord was moving even when they couldn't see it, so they failed to live by the Law between miracles.

Enter Joshua. The name *Joshua* has the same pronunciation as the Hebrew name *Yeshua* - the Greek translation which means *Jesus*. Here we see foreshadowing of a new covenant to come. God originally promised Israel this land back in Genesis 15, but they never inherited it because they repeatedly disobeyed the law. But in Joshua we see a shift when God says, "I'm giving you this land" (Joshua 1:3). What they previously couldn't qualify for under the Law of Moses, God is now giving them as a free gift, but the thing about gifts is that you have to show up and have open hands in order to receive a gift. Israel no longer gets to sit around and wait for miracles to rain from the sky – something that left them with no confidence and weak faith. God is now inviting us to participate in claiming the provision and blessings He promised long ago by empowering us with strength and courage.

2 Corinthians 5:7 perfectly summarizes this entire transition in one verse, "for we walk by faith, not by sight." Confidence empowers you to do, go, claim and build, which is exactly what Israel was about to do. The reason they were stuck in the wilderness for 40 years was because of their lack of faith and confidence which paralyzed them. I'm sure we can relate.

Compare Leviticus 26:3-4 and Joshua 1:7-8. How are they similar? How are they different? What did God intend for us to hear in these two passages?

Joshua 1:1-9 is packed with God's promise and provision, as well as callings and commands to the Israelites. Find at least 3-5 of each and discuss. What is God's role and what is our role?

What is your biggest takeaway from this passage?

M O V E

Read Ephesians 2:10 ESV

Ephesians 2:10 is a beautiful summary of Joshua 1:1-9. God is the Author and Perfecter of our faith. He has good plans for us, plans that he prepared long before we were ever born, and his hope is that we can confidently walk in the fullness of what he has for us as we draw near to him. We all feel overwhelmed by

the things of this world, especially when it seems like we can't see, feel or hear God in our life. But we can have confidence that because of Christ we can freely receive the promises of God. As we continue to develop our faith in things we cannot see, our confidence to walk through life as a light to those who need it most grows stronger because we know that every good thing has already been prepared and all we have to do is keep our eyes fixed on Jesus as we claim them step by step.

What has God been calling you into recently? What is the biggest thing holding you back from fully stepping into it? (Fear, doubt, anxiety, uncertainty, confusion, anger, etc.?)

What areas of your life have you told yourself (or been told) that “you’re not enough”?

If you could go back in time and give yourself advice, how far back would you go and what would you say?

What does the current you know about God that you wish the past you knew?

P R A Y

Lord, will you renew our confidence this Week? Not in our own skills or abilities but in your perfect power and unfailing promise. God, in our weakness you are strong, so fill us with a spirit of courage and strength as we go out this week to take back ground for the Kingdom of God knowing that wherever we fall short you will fill in the gap. Will you remind us in small ways throughout our week that you are who you say you are and that you are infinitely larger than our fears and problems. God, will you silence the lies we hear from others and tell ourselves that we're not enough, and remind us that we were fearfully and wonderfully made in your image, on purpose, for a purpose.