

"ALWAYS WITH US...NEVER LEAVING US"

Today's encouragement is one of the grandest promises in the whole Bible, and one that only God can actually deliver. After Moses died, the people of Israel needed a leader to continue leading them into the Promised Land and Joshua was God's man for the job. Entering into the great unknown of leading God's people had to *paralyzing* for Joshua, and the weight of not knowing what was ahead surely caused *fear* and *anxiety* in his own life. "Am I up for this? Do I have what it takes even when I don't know what lies ahead?" Those had to be some of the questions deep within Joshua, even if he never verbalized them. Among the many assurances God speaks to directly to His new chosen leader in Joshua 1:2-9 is one that rings so clear and true, and one that still rings clear and true in this current day,

*"Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.
I will not leave you nor forsake you."* **Joshua 1:5**

The same can be said to us today. We don't know how long this "new normal" will last or how long the Coronavirus will be around (or anything else that comes in the future). But God is saying to His global Church and to each believer today, "Just as I was with Moses and Joshua, so also I will be with you." How can we know this with such confidence? Jesus said "I am with you **always**, to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20). The author of Hebrews then takes the Joshua text one step further and says, God "will **never** leave you nor forsake you" (Heb. 13:5). Whatever you are dealing with today - fear of the unknown, loneliness because of isolation, anxiety because of not knowing what to do with your kids who are running circles around you at home (maybe that's just me!), confusion because of a search for a new normal or purpose during this season, etc... - be encouraged today that the Creator God of the universe will never leave you or throw you to the side. Quite the contrary, He is with us so deeply that He even died in our place for us. Jesus is our grand assurance that God's promise stands.

Always with us and **never** leaving us. What great encouragement that is!

With joy because of His promises,

Pastor Steven



QUESTIONS:

1. Where or how have you seen God with you today (or yesterday)?
2. Who can you remind today of God's never-going-away presence today?
3. How can you keep this promise on your 'radar' today and tomorrow?