

1. Our LifeLines verse for October 9 will be Jeremiah 33:3.
2. LifeLines will meet through Monday, November 13!

LifeLines October 2, 2023

Today's Scripture: 1 Verse

Joshua 1:8

This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day & night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, & then you shall be successful.

WHY WE'RE HERE

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

CONTEXT

Joshua is one of the historical books of the OT & begins by recording the period after the death of Moses. This marks the end of the Exodus period. Israel was ready to enter the land under a new generation of leaders, beginning with Moses' protégé, Joshua.

In our verse, the Lord spoke to Joshua, who was no longer a young man. He had spent his whole life/career under Moses' tutelage. Now, it was his time to lead, but only after God had prepared him. (How do we wait for God to prepare us?)

Joshua finished what God started through Moses. He led the liberated Israelites to settle in the Canaanite land God promised them. He had learned much from Moses & from the relationship Moses had with God. Joshua had seen, firsthand, the value of hearing & meditating on God's Word. He also knew that neglecting the Word of God was a recipe for disaster.

DIFFERENT VERSIONS (Versions not listed are similar to the NRSV.)

CEB (Common English Bible)

Never stop speaking about this Instruction scroll. Recite it day & night so you can carefully obey everything written in it. Then you will accomplish your objectives & you will succeed.

CSB (Christian Standard Bible)

This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day & night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper & succeed in whatever you do.

GNT

Be sure that the book of the Law is always read in your worship. Study it day & night, & make sure that you obey everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous & succeed.

GW

Never stop reciting these teachings. You must think about them night & day so that you will faithfully do everything written in them. Only then will you prosper & succeed.

MSG

And don't for a minute let this Book of The Revelation be out of mind. Ponder & meditate on it day & night, making sure you practice everything written in it. Then you'll get where you're going; then you'll succeed.

NCV

Always remember what is written in the Book of the Teachings. Study it day & night to be sure to obey everything that is written there. If you do this, you will be wise & successful in everything.

NIV

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day & night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous & successful.

NLT

Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day & night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper & succeed in all you do.

TLB

Constantly remind the people about these laws, & you yourself must think about them every day & every night so that you will be sure to obey all of them. For only then will you succeed.

SELAH

BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE

This book of the law...God wanted Joshua to take great care to observe the law. His commitment to it would be the pillar supporting his success as a leader & judge of & for the people. God's Word teaches us how to live personally & publicly. No matter how preoccupied or busy we are, God expects us to act according to His will.

In His Word, God placed biblical truths on which we should base our lives. Jesus taught these practical, applicable truths.

shall not depart out of your mouth...When we put something in our mouth, we accept that it will be edible, safe to eat & nourishing. That's the way it is with God's Word. God wanted His word to be *in* Joshua, *ready on Joshua's lips* at all times. He wants the same for us. When we continue in God's Word, our success as His follower leads us to prosper in ways that please Him.

you shall meditate on it day & night...By constantly meditating on the Word, it would always be in Joshua's mind, ready to be spoken, as well as acted upon, by those he led. When we read, reread, ponder & reflect on scripture, we can better understand what we've read & discern how what we've read can be applied to our own life.

so that you may be careful to act...We are told to be careful how we act. We are to be on guard, just as a watchman or sentry must stay alert. We are not to disobey or neglect God's ways. When we act in ways we know will please & honor God, we act in genuine "God-confidence" rather than in the "self-confidence" of the world.

in accordance with all that is written in it...God intended for His ways to become Joshua's ways & the ways of the people. He intends the same for us.

For then you shall make your way prosperous, & then you shall be successful... God's Word, lived according to His statutes & commandments leads to Christian success – not that it promises a life without problems. Jesus told us we *would* have problems, but that He would be with us through *every* trial that

came. The guarantee is the assurance that in our lives we will be able to deal with anything because we have full advantage of God's Presence & *all* His promises. What are some of those promises? Remember, a Christian's success isn't measured by the same standards as worldly success.

SELAH

RELATED VERSES (Add other related verses as you think of them.)

Deuteronomy 5:29, If only they had such a mind as this, to fear Me & to keep all My commandments always, so that it might go well with them & with their children forever!

Deuteronomy 5:33, You must follow exactly the path that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live, & that it may go well with you, & that you may live long in the land that you are to possess.

Deuteronomy 11:18, You shall put these words of mine in your heart & soul, & you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, & fix them as an emblem on your forehead.

Deuteronomy 17:19, It shall remain with him & he shall read in it all the days of his life, so that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, diligently observing all the words of this law & these statutes.

Deuteronomy 29:9, Therefore, diligently observe the words of this covenant, in order that you may succeed in everything that you do.

Joshua 1:5-6a, No one shall be able to stand against 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. Be strong & courageous.

Joshua 8:34, And afterward, he (**Joshua**) read all the words of the law, blessings & curses, according to all that is written in the book of the law.

1 Samuel 18:14, David had success in all his undertakings; for the Lord was with him.

2 Kings 22:11 & 13, When the king (**King Josiah**) heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes... "Go, inquire of the Lord for me, for the people & for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our ancestors did not obey the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us." (Read 2 Kings 22:1 - 23:25 for extra credit! You'll see how serious King Josiah was about getting right with God! Are we?)

Psalm 1:1-2, Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, & on His law they meditate day & night.

Psalm 9:10, And those who know Your name put their trust in You, for You, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You.

Psalm 18:30, This God – His way is perfect; the promise of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all who take refuge in Him.

Psalm 19:7, The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

Psalm 37:30-31, The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom, & their tongues speak justice. The law of their God is in their hearts; their steps do not slip.

Psalm 118:8, It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in mortals.

Psalm 119:11, I treasure Your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against You.

Psalm 119:15, I will meditate on Your precepts, & fix my eyes on Your ways.

Psalm 119:97, Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all day long.

Proverbs 3:5-6, Trust in the Lord with all your heart, & do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge Him, & He will make straight your paths.

Isaiah 26:3-5, Those of steadfast mind You keep in peace – in peace because they trust in You. Trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord God you have an everlasting rock.

Isaiah 30:21, And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”

Isaiah 59:21, And as for Me, this is My covenant with them, says the Lord: My spirit that is upon you, & My words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouths of your children, or out of the mouths of your children’s children, says the Lord, from now on & forever.

Matthew 7:24-25, “Everyone then who hears these words of Mine & acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, & the winds blew & beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.”

Matthew 24:35, Heaven & earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

Luke 11:28, But He said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the Word of God & obey it!”

John 8:31-32, Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My Word, you are truly My disciples; & you will know the truth, & the truth will make you free.”

John 13:17, “If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

John 14:21, “They who have My commandments & keep them are those who love Me; & those who love Me will be loved by My Father, & I will love them & reveal Myself to them.”

Colossians 3:16-17, Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach & admonish one another in all wisdom; & with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, & spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

1 Thessalonians 2:13, We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the Word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God’s Word, which is also at work in you believers.

Titus 2:7-8, Show yourself in all respects a model of good works, & in your teaching show integrity, gravity, & sound speech that cannot be censured; then any opponent will be put to shame, having nothing evil to say of us.

1 Peter 3:15, But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

2 Peter 1:2, May grace & peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God & of Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 John 1:1-3, We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at & touched with our hands, concerning the Word of life – this life was revealed, & we have seen it & testify to it, & declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father & was revealed to us – we declare to you what we have seen & heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; & truly our fellowship is with the Father & with His Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:3, Now by this we may be sure that we know Him, if we obey His commandments.

SUMMARY

As children of God, we are constantly learning. God wants us to know Him & keep learning. Most of all, He wants us to know His Son. He wants us to know of their love for us. He wants us to know He will never leave us or forsake us. He wants us to know He has provided everything we will ever need for a successful life, if only we will read His Word & *learn!* How can we know all He wants us to know if we don't spend time reading His love letter to us – the Bible?

How often do we *soak in* the Bible, letting it *marinate* in us? Do we chew on the words to ingest all the nutrients they provide for our daily sustenance? Meditating on the Word of God is a way to make His Word part of us, of who we are. It's the way to a prosperous life founded on principles that please God. Let's reflect on it, memorize verses & pray about what we've read, so we can apply it to our lives. Let's *hide God's Word in our hearts*. His Word is the Owner's Manual! We belong to Him, & He's given us His Word to prepare us for everything life will bring our way – good & bad.

When we read something often, repeating it frequently (silently or aloud), our memory is refreshed with the words. It's like writing the words on our heart. The more we know God's Word, the better equipped we are for each day & the more we can apply the Word to every circumstance of life. Knowing the way we should go leads to success in the Christian life. Let us not only continually feed on God's Word, trust His Word, love & obey His Word, but also let us tell others – friends, family, children, & grandchildren & others! Share the Word of God with them. Read this verse with them reminding them, "*For then you shall make your way prosperous, & then you shall be successful.*"

CONCLUSION

Someone once said BIBLE stands for: "Believer's Instructions Before Leaving Earth." Scripture teaches us many examples to follow. In scripture, we learn from the prophets, judges, martyrs, apostles, those who sinned & turned from sin, & we certainly learn from our Master & Savior, God's own Son. God's many promises are trustworthy & true. His instructions equip us for every circumstance life may bring. Reread 2 Timothy 3:16-17, on page 1.

Make a personal commitment to read & meditate on the Word of God, *daily*.

Let Joshua 1:8 be a *LifeLine* for you!

SCRIPTURE IS OUR –

LifeLine!

Take a minute or two, & write something you want to remember about this LifeLine, Joshua 1:8.
