

"Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you."

Like the rest of the Old Testament Scriptures, this book was written both to **warn** us and to **encourage** us (Rom. 15:4).

When God wants to accomplish something, **He prepares a servant for the task and prepares the task for His servant.**

Joshua's preparation

What were some of the "tools" God used to prepare Joshua for his ministry?

1. *Suffering.*

Suffering has a maturing effect on our lives.

We have too many leaders today who proudly display their **medals**, but they can't show you any **scars**.

But when suffering is mixed with faith and God's grace, then it becomes a wonderful tool for building godly character.

(2 Cor. 12:7–10). *7To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

2. *Submission.*

Joshua was able to *give* orders because he'd learned how to *take* orders.

Joshua was an obedient servant.

The key verse in Joshua's life was:

- *Be careful to obey all the law My servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.* (Josh. 1:7.).
- *11:15, "As the Lord commanded Moses, his servant, so did Moses command Joshua, and so did Joshua; he left nothing undone of all that the Lord commanded Moses."*

3. *Delay.*

It's through **faith** and **patience** that we inherit what God has promised.

(Heb. 6:12). *11We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. 12We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.*

Had the people of Israel listened to **Joshua** and **Caleb**, they would have entered their inheritance four decades sooner and enjoyed it that much longer (Num. 13:26–14:10).

Both Joshua and Caleb patiently endured the trials of the wilderness because they knew they would one day claim their inheritance in the Promised Land. **Leaders must learn how to wait.**

The vision of future victory is what motivates a true leader; but, like Israel, too often the people are looking back.

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Our **tomorrows** can be exciting and wonderful if we are **all that God wants us to be.**

He is still the God of **wonders**,

He is still calling us to be a **sanctified** people who will trust and obey.

**The God of Joshua lives,
but where are the Joshuas?**