



## CELL GUIDE

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**TOPIC** Trekking Through Transitions

**SPEAKER** Ps Henson Lim

**THEME** Maturing in Christ

**DATE** 9 and 10 Nov 2019

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## Introduction

All of us have experienced cross-overs (or major milestones) in life. The cross-over is a single moment while the transition itself can take months or even years. The critical part rather, is how well we trek through transitions. The Israelites experienced two major transitions from the wilderness to the Promised Land, and a change in leadership from Moses to Joshua.

This week, Ps Henson shared seven principles from the transitions experienced by the Israelites on how we can be strong and of good courage as we seek to reposition and realign ourselves so that we may be postured for the things of God's kingdom.

## Be Strong and Courageous – How? 7 Principles

- PAST: We can be strong and courageous because God is the one who goes before us. Keep eyes on Him, not on Man. He has been faithful in the past, He will be faithful again.**  
(Deut 31:3-6) In times of transition, the future often seems foggy and uncertain and we cannot predict what going to happen. But we can look back at the past when we have surely experienced the grace, goodness and faithfulness of God and we can draw strength from this knowing that God is faithful again and again.
- PURPOSE: We have to be strong and courageous because our obedience will bless and impact others. Our faithfulness to our assignments for the benefit of serving others.**  
(Deut 31:7-8) We need to see broader and further than ourselves – we are already blessed in Christ so it is not so much about us, but the Kingdom principle is that what God gives to us most of the time is for someone else. God is taking us through a time of transition to move us through to the place that he wants us to be and when we are clear about this purpose, this gives us strength and courage to go on and our obedience will bless and impact others.
- PERSONAL: Listen to and remember what the Lord says to you. Holding on to what He has said directly and personally enables us to be strong and courageous.**  
(Deut 31:22-23) There will be many times when we feel weak, disillusioned and want to give up. The Word of God is timeless – read again what we have recorded down and we can find strength again in the Word of God.

**4. PROMISE: We can be strong and courageous because we have a God who keeps his promise. in Christ, we are partakers of the same promise as faith descendants of Abraham.**

(Josh 1:1-6) Transitions are not necessarily easy but if we know the promises of God, we can draw strength from these promises. For we know that God keeps His promises and He will bring us through the season to the fulfilment of these promises - “for those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy”. (Ps 126:5)

**5. PRECEPTS: We must be strong and courageous because living out the word of God without compromise requires strength and courage. in times of transition, the tendency to justify and compromise is the greatest.**

Besides drawing strength or courage from the Word of God, Josh 1:7-8 also says we must be strong and courageous because we want to live out the Word of God. If God is transitioning us into something to do that He wants us to do, it may not be within the confines of a local church and we need strength to stand on the Word of God to transition.

**6. PRESENCE: We can be strong and courageous because we know that God not only goes before us, but He also promises to go with us and His presence enables us to work from a position of rest.**

(Jos 1:9) When we transition, there will still be battles and challenges but God not only goes before us and prepares the place and fights for us, He also transitions with us. And when God transitions us, it is for the kingdom assignment for us to go in tandem with God and when His presence is with us, we begin to learn to work from a posture of rest.

**7. PEOPLE: We can be strong and courageous because God will bring others to journey with us, to co-labour alongside us, stay in community, draw strength and courage from one another**

(Jos 1:16-18) Sometimes, we can feel alone even in a church community because the tasks are ours alone to accomplish. Although we still have to trek through the transition by ourselves, we are part of a community and God has promised that he will bring others to journey alongside us. So, it is equally important that we encourage our leaders and stand behind them as well.

## Conclusion

If God is doing a major spiritual transition in Singapore, Asia or even globally, it is possible that we are being transitioned. If that is the case, it is not about looking at where God wants us to go; the case then is to understand the alignment – what is God doing and why is God shifting us.

If we understand God’s purpose, and if we are willing to obey and are willing to draw strength and courage from God as how His Word has taught us, we can shift together with the rest of the Body and let the Lord use us for the purposes of His Kingdom and His glory.

# QUESTIONS

1. Of the 7 times the encouragement to "be strong and of good courage" is repeated in Deuteronomy and Joshua, which one strikes you the most? Why?

2. Share about a recent transition that you have made. Looking back now, is there any aspect of "be strong and of good courage" that you could have applied in that situation?

3. Think of somebody who is going through a change and is in a time of transition. Besides prayer, what are some ways that you can journey alongside them and encourage them?