

**I Need a Hero -
Old Testament Characters
That Teach Us New Testament Truths (Part 5)
Joshua, a man who stood up with courage
(Joshua 1:7)**

Introduction: Showing courage is never easy, especially when it comes to living the Christian life. For most of us it doesn't come naturally, it must be learned. Joshua is one of the unsung heroes of the Old Testament, a man noted for his courage. Joshua, perhaps more than any other Old Testament person, exemplifies for us the positive ways to live a victorious Christian life....

Through a careful look at the lessons of his life we will see how Joshua learned to be a man who stood up with courage, and how we too can learn to be a person who stands up with courage as well.

I. Joshua learned courage as a slave: Joshua, the son of Nun, was,

A. Born during the weary years of bondage – His people suffered in Egypt under Pharaoh.

If you have had a bad past let me assure you, you like Joshua can learn to rise above the adversity and by active faith you can have the courage to overcome your past!

B. Bitter times taught him to be a better man–

1. He should have died at birth via Pharaoh's policy. (Ex. 1:15,16)
2. He could have died many times from the inhumane treatment he received as a slave.
3. Then came that horrible night – a night filled with screams and shrieks of parents all over Egypt who's first born children had been taken in death.
4. How thankful Joshua must have been for parents that taught him it takes courage to trust God even in the darkest of times!

Joshua could have stayed bitter – But instead he became better... because he learned to have the courage to trust God in dark times. (Josh 24:15)

II. Joshua learned courage as a servant:

Moses must have already made quite an impression on Joshua and he served as a role model for him.

A. Joshua saw something in Moses –

1. Joshua saw the results of Moses faith and courage...
2. Joshua must have stood speechless as he watched Moses (Joshua soon became Moses right hand man.)

B. Joshua served along side of Moses – By this time in his life Joshua had settled an important issue – he knew and believed the Lord God of Israel was the one true God and he trusted in Him.

All these experiences were divinely designed by the Lord to prepare Joshua for his future leadership role.

This is an important truth; We must learn the lessons of courage where we are if we are to have courage to use where we're going. (i.e.) There is no better time than the present to learn that true courage comes from a close walk with God.

III. Joshua learned courage as a soldier:

A. When under attack, Joshua was appointed general – (Ex.17:8-14).

B. When it came time for confrontation – Joshua showed courage –(Num.14:7-9)

(God was steadily preparing Joshua for what He would soon have him do.)

IV. Joshua learned courage as a successor:

Moses changed Joshua's name from "Hoshea" which means salvation, to "Joshua," which means "*The Lord is salvation.*"

A. Joshua received a change - The explanation is in the name itself. (Num.13:16)

B. Joshua received a charge - Because Joshua needed to be reminded, he was to be about God's business. (Num.27:18-23) Joshua would be the successor of Moses, but he remained the servant of God! And it was God who was to get the glory for whatever He used Joshua to accomplish.

V. Joshua learned courage as a saint:

A. Joshua exemplified courage as a leader – Joshua was a successful military, political and spiritual leader – But in all this he never was fooled as to what his responsibility was...

B. Joshua emphasized his courage was in the Lord his God - In God's time, Joshua let God use his abilities and skills along with all he had learned during his years of preparation for His glory.