

Lesson 1: Transition vs Change

Scripture: Joshua 1:1–9

Joshua 1:1-9 KJV

- Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,
- (2) Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, [even] to the children of Israel.
- (3) Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.
- (4) From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.
- (5) There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, [so] I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.
- (6) Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.
- (7) Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it [to] the right hand or [to] the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.
- (8) This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.
- (9) Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God [is] with thee whithersoever thou goest.

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Opening Summary: The Shift from Moses to Joshua

After the death of Moses, leadership of Israel transitioned to Joshua. Moses had faithfully led the Israelites out of Egypt and through the wilderness for forty years, guiding them with God's instruction and presence. Now, Joshua was appointed to take the next step—leading a new generation into the Promised Land. But this moment was more than just a leadership handoff; it marked a significant transition in the life of Israel:

- A change in leadership (from Moses to Joshua)
- A change in location (from the wilderness to Canaan)

- A change in generation (from those who left Egypt to those born in the wilderness)

While Joshua faced uncertainty and a daunting assignment, the promises of God remained unchanged—His presence, His power, and His provision would continue. This shift teaches us that real transition requires more than external changes; it demands internal readiness, spiritual traction, and trust in God’s unchanging faithfulness.

Discussion Questions:

- How do you think Joshua felt taking Moses’ place?
- Why is it important to recognize God’s presence in moments of leadership transition?

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Section 1: Definitions – Transition vs Change

Change = An external event or adjustment (new job, new location).
 Transition = The internal process we go through to adapt to change.

Key Difference: Change is situational. Transition is emotional, spiritual, and mental.

Spiritual Connection: God doesn’t just want a change of behavior, He wants a transition of heart.

Romans 12:2 KJV — (2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Discussion Questions:

- Have you experienced a change that didn’t result in real spiritual growth? Why?
- What would a full spiritual transition to God look like?

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Section 2: Transition Requires Termination

A true transition can only occur when the former person, position, or circumstance has been fully released and left behind. It requires a clear termination—whether that be a contract, relationship, role, or commitment. In Joshua 1, we witness this vividly: Moses, the former leader, has died. With his passing, the nation of Israel stands at a pivotal

point of transition. Leadership has now fully shifted to Joshua, marking not just a change in command, but a complete transition into a new season.

Joshua 1:1-2 KJV — (1) Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, (2) Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

Supporting Scriptures

- **2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV** – “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
- **Isaiah 43:18-19 KJV** – “(18) Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. (19) Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.”
- **Hebrews 12:1 KJV** – “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,”
- **Colossians 3:5 KJV** - (5) “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:”
- **Romans 8:13 KJV** - (13) “For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”

To transition well, we must let go of the old. Moses was gone. That season ended. God declared it's time to move forward.

Discussion Questions:

- What "old thing" in your life needs to be terminated to move forward?
- Why is it hard to let go, even when we know it's necessary?

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Section 3: Transition Needs Transmission

Adjusting to change—whether it's a shift in location, leadership, employment, or any major life event—is often met with confusion, frustration, and anxiety. Change can shake our sense of stability, leaving us uncertain about what's next. In these moments, we don't just need movement—we need direction.

That's where God steps in.

To help us navigate the uncertainty of transition, God provides what we need most: His Word. Through Scripture, He offers comfort for our fears, guidance for our decisions, and strength for the journey ahead. He doesn't leave us to figure it out alone. Instead, He invites us to meditate daily on His truth—just as He instructed Joshua.

Joshua 1:7–8 KJV “(7) Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. (8) This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Real transformation happens when we align our hearts with God's Word. That's how we transition—not just change.

Meditate:

- To focus, reflect, or think deeply and continuously on something.

Meditation is how God transmits truth and direction into our spirit. It builds faith and clarity.

Supporting Scriptures

- **Psalms 1:2-3 KJV** — (2) But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. (3) And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.
- **1 Timothy 4:15 KJV** — (15) Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

Discussion Questions:

- What do you meditate on daily—God's Word or your worries?
- How has God used His Word to guide you through a transition?

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Section 4: Transition Requires Traction

Joshua was now appointed to take up the mantle of leadership following the death of Moses. Yet, this transition would be far from simple. The people he was to lead had a long history of disobedience and had frequently been a source of internal strife for Moses. Although the previous generation had passed away, the underlying pattern of rebellion still lingered. As they prepared to enter the Promised Land, both Joshua and the Israelites faced new and daunting challenges. To successfully navigate this transition, firm footing—or traction—would be essential. That foundation was provided to Joshua in verse 9 of the first chapter.

Joshua 1:9 KJV — (9) Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

We all need spiritual grip to avoid sliding back into fear or disobedience. Traction keeps us steady, even when the ground beneath us feels uncertain. That spiritual traction comes from the strength God provides when we wholeheartedly trust in Him and stand firmly on His Word.

Supporting Scriptures

- **Hebrews 13:5 KJV** — (5) Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.
- **Philippians 4:13 KJV** — (13) I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Discussion Questions:

- Where do you feel like you're losing traction?
- How can we practically lean on Christ for strength in our current transitions?

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Final Thoughts & Actions

Don't just go through a change—make a transition to God. Let go of the old. Take in His Word. Step forward with strength.

Group Actions:

- Reflect on one area of your life where you're experiencing a change—what does full transition to God look like in that area?
- Commit to meditating on one verse daily this week.
- Encourage someone in their transition journey—pray for them and share what God is showing you.

Closing Prayer:

“Lord, help us not to settle for surface-level change, but to truly transition into who You’ve called us to be. Help us let go, stay rooted in Your Word, and walk boldly in Your strength. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen”