

# Be Strong and Courageous

Fear Not! A Devotional

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I hope you find God's peace and God's hope in these words.

I thank my children and my husband for the continual support and prayers through the last few years.

Thanks to God for the words He gives me to express my heart.

**Joshua 1:9**

*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*

## The Vision

Standing on a hill overlooking the deep clear vista I feel the presence of others around me. I clearly see my family - I see my daughter and her husband to my right looking at the beautiful view. I feel my husband on my left. He stands tall and determined beside me. I can also feel the energy from my youngest daughter behind me, and my son to her left.

As we all stand there a voice comes from the clouds around us. **“Behold your future.”**

I strain my eyes to see clearer but it is still hazy to my eyes. I see the year stretched out before me but I cannot tell what will be happening or where I will go.

Instead, I feel peace permeate my being. Hope wells up inside of me. God is here. He is all around me. He is with me, and He is with my family. I can't see what will happen

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tomorrow. I don't know about next month. But I do know without a doubt that He will walk beside me every step of the way. He will guide me. He will show me the way to walk.

The voice speaks again, **“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”**

I recognized the scripture from Joshua. I remember the hope and the command that it gave him. He was now the leader of all of Israel, and he was to lead them into the Promised Land.

God is sending my family and I into our Promised Land. It may not be easy or entirely safe. It may not seem to be what is best for us. But the paths we walk this year will guide us closer to Him and closer to each other.

Again the echo of the voice, **“I'll be with you. I won't give up on you; I won't leave**

**you. Strength! Courage! Don't be timid; don't get discouraged. God, your God, is with you every step you take."**

We all look at each other and nod our heads in agreement. We take a step forward into the New Year.

**Joshua 1:1-9** *"After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them - to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates - all the Hittite country - to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. No one will 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 never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to*

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*their ancestors to give them.*

*“Be strong and very courageous. 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. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”*

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## **Courage, Strength, Peace**



**Isaiah 35:3-4**

*Energize the limp hands,  
strengthen the rubbery knees.  
Tell fearful souls,  
“Courage! Take heart!  
God is here, right here,  
on his way to put things right  
And redress all wrongs.  
He’s on his way! He’ll save you!”*

It is my time to have courage and to take heart. God is here in my life. He is here all around me. He is in my heart and in the hearts of my family. He lives in my home. And He is here in my life on His way to put things right. He will fix all that is wrong. He will save me. He has given me eternal life. He has blessed me in my life today.

So this year I will choose to believe that

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God is here. I will choose to believe that God is all around me. I will choose to believe that He is guiding me and guiding my steps.

**Prayer**

Lord, this day help me to trust and believe in You. Let me know that You are leading me. Forgive me of my sins and when I want to walk where I want to walk. Help me to say Your words and Your love. Help me to give grace and mercy to those around me. Teach me Your joy and Your peace. Help me to live everyday soaked to the skin in Your presence.

**Isaiah 41:9-10**

*I pulled you in from all over the world,  
called you in from every dark corner of the earth,  
Telling you, 'You're my servant, serving on my side.  
I've picked you. I haven't dropped you.'  
Don't panic. I'm with you.  
There's no need to fear for I'm your God.  
I'll give you strength. I'll help you.  
I'll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you.*

God has called me. He has told me I am His servant. I serve on His side. God has picked me. He has not dropped me. He is here with me. Even in this storm of my life I am not to panic or become fearful. God is with me. He is my God. He will give me strength and help me. He will hold me steady and keep a firm grip on me.

**Prayer**

Dear Lord, fill me with Your peace today. Show me I am Yours. Open my eyes to the ways You are blessing me today. Fill my heart with joy at these signs of Your love and care for me. Fill me quickly with Your strength and courage so I may walk in Your ways today. Watch my mouth so I can communicate with those I love and those You love. Let me know how You care for me today and help me to share Your love with others.

**Isaiah 41:11-13**

*“Count on it: Everyone who had it in for you  
will end up out in the cold -  
real losers.*

*Those who worked against you  
will end up empty-handed -  
nothing to show for their lives.*

*When you go out looking for your old adversaries  
you won't find them -*

*Not a trace of your old enemies,  
not even a memory.*

*That's right. Because I, your God,  
have a firm grip on you and I'm not letting go.*

*I'm telling you, 'Don't panic.*

*I'm right here to help you.'*

Some days I feel like I want to see those who had it in for me out in the cold. I want to see those who worked against me empty-

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handed. I want to not see my old adversaries anywhere around to remind me of what they did to me.

Then I remember who my God is. I remember that I am His child. I remember that He holds me in His hand and protects me daily. He sends joy knocking on my heart's door every day. He extends grace and mercy to me every day. His love and peace fill my being every day.

For those who have had it in for me, I pray God will meet them in their hearts and change their lives. For those who worked against me, I pray God will forgive them and bless them mightily. For my old adversaries or old enemies I hope I will have a chance to give my witness, my story of God's love for me.

Why? Because God is my God. He has a firm grip on me. He is not letting me go. He is right here to help me. His kindness and

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gentleness fill my soul. Though the world around me may go crazy and be filled with panic, I will be at peace. I am in God's hand. I am safe.

### **Prayer**

Lord, help me find forgiveness in my heart for those who have hurt me. Help me let go of anger and bitterness. Fill me with Your kindness and gentleness. Fill me with Your peace.

### **About the Author**

Anna is the mother of three adults and has been happily married for over 35 years. She invested over six years schooling her children at home. Then she volunteered at the local high school for ten years. She has one married daughter, one lovely son-in-law, and a cute grandson. Three cats strive for premium napping space near her as she works on her computer.

For more on Anna, see [apayne.com](http://apayne.com)



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## **Further Reading**

To read other works by Anna, check out her author page on Amazon or check out her websites.

Website: [apayne.com](http://apayne.com)

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