

Dr. Ron Armstrong • October 4, 2020
The Story: The Battle of You

Joshua 1:1 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: **2** "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. **3** I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. **4** 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. **5** 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. **6** Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

7 "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. **8** 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. **9** 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."

10 So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: **11** "Go through the camp and tell the people, 'Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own.'"

A. The battle for new territory or accomplishment begins in your heart.

1. Christ-followers should always be looking for new discipleship territory, but I think growth is healthy in all areas of our lives.
2. Moses and Joshua had very different ministries. Moses fought the internal battles; Joshua fought the external ones.
3. Here's a key biblical principle: The internal battles have to come before the external ones.
 - a. You won't master them all, but you can't be oblivious to them.
 - b. The right order of internal and external helps you know which battles to fight.
4. Here's the list of internal battles God gave them that they needed to win:
 - a. Be courageous.
 - b. Be obedient.
 - c. Be focused.
 - d. Rehearse what God has taught you.
 - e. Quit procrastinating and get packed. (You leave in three days.)
5. What's the new territory you want to take?

B. To get to the territory, they had to actually go.

1. It's not what you see; it's not what you want; it's only what you are willing to do something about.
2. Having a deadline really helps. Set it; communicate it; keep it.
3. Expect barriers and battles. Everything worth accomplishing will have both. "Easy" never built anything.
4. What's the new territory you want to take?