

Be Strong, Courageous, and Bold

As Joshua was getting ready to cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land, God gave a commission to him (Joshua 1:1-9). The mission to conquer the land was going to be difficult and dangerous, and may have tested even Joshua's resolve. He hardened his resolve when God ended his commission by saying "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Verse 9, ESV). With these words, Joshua bravely led his people across the Jordan River to fulfill God's promise.

As we know, Karns will hold Friendship Day on September 28. We ask each of you to invite family, friends, and neighbors to worship with us that day. Some members of our Karns family have no problems with inviting others to church. They just seem to have that type of personality and have the confidence to approach others and invite them to services.

There are a good number of us, though, who have a hard time doing this. We are uncomfortable asking people to come to church with us. Perhaps we think they will reject us out of hand, or think less of us. We might be shy or lack confidence in our ability to persuade others. If you feel this way, remember God's words to Joshua. He is with us wherever we go, so be strong and courageous. If each of us asks just one friend, family member, or neighbor to Friendship Day, what a joyful day we would have!

Now, the purpose of Friendship Day is not just to fill the pews. At its core, Friendship Day is a way to fulfill Jesus' great commission to us, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." (Mark 16:15). Recognizing this, we must be bold and confident. Like Paul we should declare the gospel boldly (Ephesians 6:20), and have confidence through our faith in Jesus (Ephesians 3:12).

Therefore, each of us can confidently go forth and invite our family, friends, and neighbors to Friendship Day, knowing the God is with us wherever we go.

For the elders,
Tony Turner