

KAILUA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Sunday, Nov. 9, 2025
“God Goes With You”
Rev. Danny Han

Scripture Reading: Joshua 1:1-9

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 fathers 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.”

A warm welcome to all of you. My name is Danny Han, and it’s very nice to be with this church family. It has been more than two years since I last preached, back in March 2023. So, it was a pleasant surprise when Myra reached out to me, and I’m honored to be able to preach here once again.

Before we dive into our passage this morning, I want to remind you of what we just sang together – “Christ in Me.” We didn’t just sing a song to warm up for the sermon. No, we sang to counsel and admonish one another.

The Apostle Paul writes in Colossians 3:16, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

When we sing “Christ in me is to live,”, we’re declaring a biblical truth that echoes what Paul said in Galatians 2:20. We’re reminding each other that Christ dwells in us – He has made His home in our hearts. We’re not just singing words; we’re letting the word of Christ dwell richly in our hearts. And that’s exactly where our passage takes us this morning.

But before we proceed, let's pray.

Pray

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for gathering us together in Your presence today. As we open Your Word, we confess our need for You, Your love, Your wisdom, and Your strength. Quiet our hearts and minds so we may listen attentively and receive what You have for each of us in this time.

Lord, as we reflect on Joshua's story and your faithful promise to be with us wherever we go, help us to be strong and courageous. Let Your Spirit guide our thoughts so that the message we hear sinks deeply into our hearts. May Christ dwell richly within us, shaping our lives more and more into His likeness.

We invite You to meet us here, just as You met Moses and Joshua in the tent. Transform our hearts into places of Your dwelling and let Your Word come alive in us. As we worship, sing, and listen, may we encourage and admonish one another according to Your truth.

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be pleasing to you, O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

Let me tell you what you're going to hear this morning. Here's the central theme of what I'm preaching today, and you caught just a little bit of it in my prayer:

God goes with you wherever you go, so go with God in all you do.

That's it. That's what I want you to remember when you leave here today. God goes with you wherever you go, so go with God in all you do. We're going to unpack that from Joshua chapter 1, verses 1 through 9, and we're going to see how this ancient promise to Joshua finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ and in us as His people today.

1. The Promise: God's Presence in Every Place

The Lord tells Joshua three times in this passage to be strong and courageous (verses 6,7,9). Three times! Why? Because Joshua needed to hear it. He was taking over from Moses – Israel's great leader, the man who spoke with God face-to-face, as a friend. The pressure was immense. But notice what Joshua's courage is anchored in. It's not in Joshua's skills, abilities, his military strategy, or his charisma. God says in verse 5: "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Here's the foundation of Joshua's strength. It is quite simply **God's Presence**.

And here's the promise: God goes with you wherever you go. This isn't just a nice sentiment. This is the very reason Joshua can move forward with confidence. Verse 9 puts it plainly: "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Now, I need you to understand something crucial here. This promise of God's presence wasn't new. It was the very thing Moses had begged for back in Exodus 33. When God told Moses he would send an angel with the people, but that He Himself wouldn't go with them because of their sin with the golden calf, Moses refused to budge. He said in Exodus 33:15, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here." Moses knew that without God's presence, they had nothing. They might as well stay put in the wilderness.

And where did God meet with Moses? In the tent of meeting. That tent was pitched outside the camp – a physical reminder that God had removed His presence from the midst of the people because of their rebellion. But here's what's beautiful: even though God was angry with the people, He didn't abandon them altogether. He provided a place where anyone who sought the Lord could go. And Moses went there regularly. Every time Moses entered that tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and station itself at the entrance, and the Lord would speak with Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

However, here's where Joshua's story becomes truly interesting. Exodus 33:11 tells us something remarkable: The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent." Did you catch that? Joshua did not leave the tent. While everyone else returned to their daily routines, Joshua remained in God's presence.

This is how Joshua was being prepared for leadership. Not through management seminars. Not through leadership conferences. Not watching YouTube. Joshua was being formed in the tent of meeting – in the very presence of God. He lingered there. He dwelt there. He didn't leave. And this is exactly why, forty years later, when God commissions Joshua to lead Israel into the Promised Land, He tells him: "Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night." God was simply saying; "Joshua, keep doing what You've been doing. Stay in My presence. Stay in My Word. Don't leave the tent of meeting."

God goes with you wherever you go, so go with God in all you do.

2. The Pattern: Following God Through His Word

Look at verses 7 and 8 again:

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.

God's presence isn't something mystical that we access through feelings or spiritual highs. God's presence is accessed through His Word. Joshua was to keep the Book of the Law on his lips – speaking it, teaching it, declaring it. He was to meditate on it day and night – thinking about it, mulling it over, applying it to every situation he faced. And he was to be careful to do everything written in it—obeying it fully, not turning to the right or to the left.

This is what it means to go with God in all you do. It means letting the word of Christ dwell in you richly. It means being in the Word daily, not as a religious duty, but as the primary way you meet with God. Just as Joshua didn't leave the tent of meeting, we don't leave the Word. We set aside time morning and night to meditate on Scripture. We listen to the Word being preached when we gather as the church. We talk about it with our families and friends. We memorize it, pray it, and sing it.

Church, success in the Christian life isn't measured by how much you accomplish for God but by how faithfully you walk with God through His Word. That's the pattern Joshua followed, and it's the pattern we're called to follow. The entire book of Joshua emphasizes this: success for Joshua and Israel was rooted in trust and obedience to God's Word, not in military might.

God goes with you wherever you go, so go with God in all you do.

3. The Fulfillment: Christ as Our True Joshua

Now here's where the story gets even more glorious. The name Joshua in Hebrew is Yeshua, which means the Lord saves or the Lord is salvation. And that name – Yeshua – is the same name as Jesus. Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew Joshua. Do you see what God was doing? He was painting a picture through Joshua's life of the greater Joshua who was to come – Jesus Christ, who would lead God's people not just into a physical land, but into eternal salvation.

Just as Joshua led Israel out of the wilderness and into the Promised Land, Jesus leads us out of a life of slavery to sin and into the freedom of new life in Him. Just as Joshua conquered enemies to give Israel rest in the land, Jesus conquered sin and death to provide us with eternal rest. Just as Joshua's name means the Lord is Salvation, Jesus

came to save His people from their sins. The book of Hebrews makes this connection explicit, pointing out that Joshua brought the people into a temporary rest, but Jesus brings us into God's eternal rest.

And here's the most stunning part of the fulfillment: Remember the tent of meeting where Joshua lingered? That tent was where God's presence dwelt among His people. The tent eventually became the Tabernacle, which later developed into the Temple. But all of those were just shadows pointing to something greater. John 1:14 tells us: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." The word "dwelling" is derived from the Greek word skenoo, which literally means "to tabernacle" or "to pitch a tent." Jesus didn't just visit us. He tabernacled among us. He moved into the neighborhood. The tent of meeting became a person – Jesus Christ.

But it gets even better! Where is the tent of meeting now? It's not in some distant temple. It's not on some faraway mountain. The tent of meeting is in you! Paul writes in Ephesians 3:17, "that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith." That word "dwell" means to settle down, to make a home, to take up permanent residence. Christ has made His home in your heart if you belong to Him!

This is what we sang about earlier, because for anyone who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ, they can say, it is no longer I who live, but it's Christ in me. This is what Paul meant when he said in Colossians 1:27, "Christ in you, the hope of glory." The presence of God that once dwelt in a tent outside the camp, that once filled the Tabernacle with glory, that once took on flesh in Jesus Christ – that same presence now dwells in you by the Holy Spirit! You are the tent of meeting!

4. The Application: Being in the Word Daily

So, what does this mean for us practically? It means the same thing it meant for Joshua: be in the Word. If Christ dwells in you, and if the word of Christ is to dwell in you richly, then you must be daily, consistently, purposefully in the Scriptures.

Let me provide you with some practical ways to do this, as I don't want this to remain theoretical.

First, set aside time morning and night to meditate on God's Word.

Just five minutes in the morning and five at night. That's what Psalm 1 describes – the person who meditates on God's law day and night becomes like a tree planted by streams of water. Pick a passage. Read it slowly. Think about it. Pray through it. Ask the Holy Spirit to apply it to your life.

Second, listen to the Bible.

Get an audio Bible app and listen while you're driving, exercising, or doing chores. Don't think you have to give it 100% focus. Just let it play. The Word will shape you more than you realize.

Third, gather with the church to hear the Word preached.

This isn't optional. Hebrews 10:25 commands us not to forsake assembling together. There's power in hearing the Word proclaimed corporately.

Fourth, talk about God's Word with others.

With your spouse. With your kids. With your friends. Colossians 3:16 says we teach and admonish one another through the word of Christ dwelling in us.

Fifth, write it out.

Journal what God is teaching you. Keep a notebook of insights and applications. The act of writing helps you process and retain what God is saying to you.

Church, this isn't legalism. This is life! This is how you experience God's presence every day. Joshua didn't leave the tent of meeting because he wanted more of God's presence. We don't leave the Word because we want more of Christ dwelling in us richly.

And here's the promise that anchors everything:

9 The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

That promise made to Joshua is repeated to us in Hebrews 13:5: "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Jesus Himself promised in Matthew 28:20, "I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Church, you are not alone. God goes with you – into the hard conversation, into the uncertain future, into the battle with sin, into the mundane rhythms of daily life. Wherever you go, God is with you because Christ dwells in you by His Spirit!

God goes with you wherever you go, so go with God in all you do.

5. The Conclusion: The Tent of Meeting in Your Heart

Let me bring this home when we say that God "tabernacles" with us, we find not a physical tent outside the camp, but Christ dwelling in our hearts through faith. The tent of

meeting has become personal, intimate, and constant. And the way we experience this indwelling presence is through being in God's Word.

Joshua stayed in the tent and didn't leave. He kept the Word on his lips day and night. And God was with him wherever he went, giving him victory after victory as he led God's people into the Promised Land.

Jesus, the greater Joshua, has accomplished the ultimate victory. He's defeated sin and death. He's led us out of bondage. And now He dwells in us, the hope of glory. Our calling is the same as Joshua's: be strong and courageous, not in ourselves, but in the Lord. Stay in the Word. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Meditate on it day and night. Don't turn from it to the right or to the left.

Because here's the truth: ***God goes with you wherever you go, so go with God in all you do.***

Will you commit to being in God's Word daily this week? Will you set aside time morning and night to meet with the Lord in the tent of meeting that is now your own heart? Will you let the word of Christ dwell in you richly so that Christ Himself is formed more fully in you?

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid. Do not be discouraged. For the Lord your God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—goes with you wherever you go.

Let's pray.

Heavenly Father,

As we close this time together, we thank You for Your Word and Your presence with us. Just as You promised Joshua, You go with us wherever we go – so we ask that You help us walk in that confidence and courage this week.

May Your Son, Christ Jesus, dwell richly in our hearts, empowering us to follow you in joyful obedience. Let Your Word continue to guide and shape us day by day, and may our lives reflect Your love to those around us. Strengthen us to be strong and courageous, holding fast to Your promises.

Send us out, Lord, reminded that we do not walk alone, but that Your Spirit leads us, counsels us, and encourages us. May we live out what we have received today, and bring glory to Your name.

Amen.

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AFTER CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER – LORD’S PRAYER

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.