

## **SCCC – GOD IS ENCOURAGING US**

### **S - Scriptures**

“Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. Joshua 1: 6 (Deut. 31: 7, 23)

### **C – Consideration**

Moses had died and Joshua had taken the leadership to bring Israel into the Promise Land. After forty years of burying hundreds of thousands in the desert, and watching the struggles of Moses deal with the rebellious community, he was appointed as the new leader to overcome the enemies and to divide the land to the twelve tribes. Before the death of Moses, Joshua had heard twice these words, “Be strong and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land I promised them on oath, and I myself will be with you.” After Moses’ death Joshua heard another four times of his Book (three times by the Lord and one time by the Israeli leaders.) “Then they answered Joshua, “Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go... Only be strong and courageous!”

### **C – Commitment**

If I add up every time Joshua heard words of encouragement, it comes to six times. Why would God keep speaking to Joshua and affirming him? I can think that perhaps was because of fear, insecurity, loneliness, sorrow, and other negative feelings. He was always with Moses, obeying his leader, learning and growing with his spiritual father, who was no longer there. All his old friends, except Caleb, were dead, Aaron, Miriam had died and now everyone’s eyes were in Joshua. If he would let his emotions get out of control, he was not going to be able to fulfill the assignment; therefore, he must have to take God’s words to his heart. The Lord had told him that, “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.” In my journey as a Christian, I have lost spiritual fathers, friends, and close relatives. I have seen struggles among brethren, struggles in my soul, fear, sorrow, disappointments, failure, skepticism, spiritual oppression, and other inner battles. What did I learn with this story? Like the Lord had spoken to Joshua, he also speaks to me. I have to believe and meditate in his words: “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?” Otherwise, I will be unfruitful and discouraged.

### **C – Call**

My Heavenly Father, You know my heart, my failures, my fears, my sorrows, and yet, You didn’t give up on me. Jesus came to rescue me from my enemies, to forgive me, and to redeem me. The Holy Spirit came to comfort and to encourage me every day. Forgive me when I have allowed fear and skepticism to control my soul. Forgive me when I was negligent and didn’t

meditate in your words. Help me to forget things that have passed, and to look at the things that You have assigned for me and for the community of believers in the world. Thank you for the Promised Land, that You have prepared for us in eternity, In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.