

# Lifelines

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Pastor, Gwynn's Island Baptist Church, Gwynn, VA

June 25, 2026

Topic: *The Undiscovered Adventure*

## **Following God's Lead, Into Your Future!**

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Some years ago, a friend of my sister invited us to come to Wyoming for a visit, and to have my wife paint some murals in her new home, and of course we took some photos of her work. Today a picture of a Bible verse she painted over a doorway in that house, came up on my computer screen. The verse was Deuteronomy 31:6 (CSB), which says: "Be strong and courageous; don't be terrified or afraid of them. For the LORD your God is the One who will go with you; He will not leave you or abandon you."

Deuteronomy 31 begins with Moses, already an elderly man, telling the people of Israel that God had told him that he would not be leading the people of Israel into the land that God had promised to Abraham and to his descendants, who at that time were the twelve tribes of Israel. God had delivered them from Egypt, had them spend forty-years in the wilderness learning to trust God, before arriving at the edge of the land promised as their inheritance. This was a rich land, flowing with milk and honey. The events of Joshua and the conquest is dated around 1400 years before the birth of Jesus.

Some today, who might trace their ancestry to Abraham via Ismael, say that the land belongs to them, not to the Jews. However, the Jews were the ones led by Joshua to conquer the land promised to them. That was some 3400 years ago. How many centuries do you have to live in a land before other people accept as reality that it is your land? What a crazy world.

Back to our story. Moses was very old, struggling to just go in and out of his tent. A new leader was needed, who would trust God, follow God by faith, and fight the battles necessary to drive the giants out of the Promised Land, and defeat the Canaanites. God, through Moses, promised the same thing to Joshua that He had promised (and fulfilled) to Moses when he became the leader of God's people in the deliverance out of Egypt, across years of deserts, and to the edge of the land that was promised to be theirs. God tells Joshua, as the leadership of God's people is passed to him, the words of Deuteronomy 31:6 (read verse written above.)

The encouraging words of God to the new leader of His people was to "be strong and courageous." Leadership requires wisdom, stamina, and courage. The lives of many may depend upon your leadership. Fighting giants, who make your people feel like grasshoppers ready to be crushed, takes courage and faith. Do not fear, rather believe!

Years of battle require stamina. But most importantly, spiritual leadership has to have a real, life-sustaining daily relationship with God. You must have faith to hear God's voice, believe the instructions, and take action to obey God entirely. God promised that He would be with Joshua, just as He was with Moses. Deuteronomy 31:6 (CSB) says: "Be strong and courageous; don't be terrified or afraid of them. For the LORD your God is the One who will go with you; He will not leave you or abandon you."

God did miracles through Moses. God would do miraculous things through Joshua too. You, Joshua, are not going alone; the awesome LORD, who is your God, He is the One who will go with you, and in Deut. 31:3, He is the One who will cross the Jordan ahead of you, and go into battle before

you. God is the one who fights our battles, when we are following Him. God promises to be with us, and to not abandon us as we journey with Him.

What difficult scenarios are you facing today? What do you fear? As the children of Israel entered the land God promised to them, God promised to deal with any giant obstacles encountered while entering His promised life of milk and honey. If God is with you, what is there to fear? If God clears the way before you, why do you doubt? God has good things that He has promised to you and to me, today as well as farther up the road, as we follow Him day by day. There will be battles. Our task is to “Be strong and courageous, and realize that God is with us “wherever we go,” (Joshua 1:9); so, therefore we should confidently follow God day by day, as we journey into the undiscovered life that God is giving to you and me in the days ahead.

*Award-winning columnist Dr. Ed Jordan is pastor of Gwynn’s Island Baptist Church, Gwynn, VA. He can be reached at [szent.edward@gmail.com](mailto:szent.edward@gmail.com). Dr. Jordan’s new book: “*Doing Love! It can change your life!*” can be purchased on Barnes&Noble.com or Amazon.com.*