



Hednesford
Salvation Army
Corps and Community Centre

Passing the Torch

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Shift / Fellowship; Genuine; God: Presence; Courage; Change; Trust; Promises /

Deuteronomy 31:1-8

Courage Through Change

Objective

Every Christian can find courage in change and transition by trusting in God's promises.

We have a fear of change

If we're honest, most of us don't handle change very well. Sometimes, it seems as if everything in our world is changing. And it fills us with fear.

So this series is designed to help all of us make smooth transitions. It's important to have smooth transitions. And it's important in the life of Hednesford Salvation Army, that we do our best to make a smooth transition from this stage of our corps' life to the next.

The transfer of leadership is a critical time for any community. The Bible focuses on the issue quite frequently.

Deuteronomy 31:1-8, p.209

God addresses the people

Moses reminds God's people that whichever leader is at the helm, the true leader of God's people is always God himself.

Deuteronomy 31:3 NRSV

³ The LORD your God himself will cross over before you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you shall dispossess them. Joshua also will cross over before you, as the LORD promised.



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He continues to comfort them and to remind them that they need not be afraid:

Deuteronomy 31:6 NRSV

⁶ Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the LORD your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.”

These words may be where Paul got this idea from when he encouraged the Corinthian church:

1 Corinthians 16:13 NRSV

¹³ Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.

God addresses the leader

Having encouraged God’s people to be strong and to stand firm, to act like heroes during this time of change and transition, Moses turns his attention to his successor, Joshua:

Deuteronomy 31:7–8 NRSV

⁷ Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel: “Be strong and bold, for you are the one who will go with this people into the land that the LORD has sworn to their ancestors to give them; and you will put them in possession of it.

⁸ It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

What was covenantally true for the people of God would also be personally true for their new leader.

Trust God to keep his promise

I sense that God wants to say these words to Hednesford Salvation Army today:

Deuteronomy 31:6 NRSV

⁶ Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the LORD your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.”

Deuteronomy 31:8 AMP

⁸ It is the Lord Who goes before you; He will [march] with you; He will not fail you *or* let you go or forsake you; [let there be no cowardice or flinching, but] fear not, neither become broken [in spirit—depressed, dismayed, and unnerved with alarm].