

The Thread

WEEK 12- DEVOTION 4

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:8-9

Have you ever seen a fire alarm and had the irresistible urge to pull it? There is something about a rule or warning that almost provokes you to "test" to see if it's really worth following. I mean, think about it: What happens if you go a little over the speed limit, really? If you walk on prohibited grass, what will really happen?

Read Joshua 1:1-9. Rules can be kind of scary. But we know that rules also come with a promise. When Joshua became the leader of Israel, God issued a promise as well as a command in verse 8. Follow God's laws at all times, and you will prosper.

This sounds like a really hard command to follow God's entire Law. But look at the language used in verse 1. God wants you to look at the laws as something that is on your heart and mind all the time. From there, your heart will be drawn to follow God's rules, motivated by love for Him.

This makes perfect sense: Rules are meant to protect you from harm, and show you a better path. Following God's law is the same way; it protects you from harm and provides you with the promise of protection. God goes out of His way to protect His people.

Something to think about...

- What are some of God's commands that are hard to follow? What can you lose by avoiding that command? What can you gain?
- Why do you think it means for people to "meditate on the law day and night"? What are some ways that you can begin doing that?