

2 WHEREVER

Joshua 1:7 ...do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9 ...Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:16 ...All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go.

In the first chapter of the book of Joshua, the three occurrences of the simple but significant word 'wherever' speak of the all-encompassing nature of God's ways with His people. For the saint who would place himself in God's good hands, this includes any and every situation that may come his way. What a precious three-fold promise this is to believers wherever it pleases God to place them!

- **His Prospering (v7)**

This is premised on our unwavering obedience to God's Word and commands, not *"turning to the right hand or the left"*. It requires strength and courage to do this consistently. It comes by regular reading and diligent feeding on the Word of God, *"meditating in it day and night"* (v8). As we determine to live by His Word, He will bless, prosper, and establish the work of our hands. It may not always appear to be so at the moment, but we shall see it in His due time, often in ways far exceeding our expectations.

- **His Presence (v9)**

Sometimes the exhortation to *"be strong and of good courage"* seems beyond us when all we are struggling for is simply to *"not be afraid or dismayed"*. At such times, nothing is more reassuring than to know that the Lord is with you, wherever you are, just as you are. In that very spot and moment you find yourself flagging and fearful in spirit, He is standing by you to strengthen and to encourage. His presence with us is not dependent on our feelings, but on our faith in what He has declared in His Word.

- **His Purpose (v16)**

When we have the promises of His prospering and His presence, then submitting to His will in order to fulfil His purpose becomes a joy, not a burden. Perfect love casts out any fear of the 'wherever' we might end up with. Knowing 'who' has called us dispels any fear of not knowing 'where' we might be going. The only thing that will make us fling our lives and be expendable for God is the knowledge that wherever we are, it is all part of the outworking of His perfect plan concerning us.

Paul and Barnabas were described as *"men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Acts 15:26). What a commendation on the boldness of those who are utterly sold out for God. Our spiritual horizon should never be limited by wondering 'where', but stretched by going 'wherever' He leads us.