

**Joshua chapter 1**

I managed a group of engineers for over 20 years. I lead my family daily, and have been the chairman of the Elders and Deacons board for a local church before. I learned leadership skills from various resources. Bible is one of the best resources because it contains God's approach. We can learn from Joshua on leadership.

Book of Joshua starts with the time immediately after the death of Moses around 1406 B.C. and events in this book spread about 25 years. The name Joshua means "Yahweh Saves". This book has three main sections. The first section is about Joshua led the people to conquer the promised land: chapters 1 to 5 is about invasion and chapters 6 to 12 is about possessing the land. The second section, chapters 13 to 22, is about distribution of the land. The last section, chapters 23 and 24, is Joshua's commission to the people as the conclusion. The key theme of this book is about obedient faith can bring blessings. This book describes the faithfulness of Rahab the harlot, the battle of Jericho, and the warrior Caleb. The book also describes some disobedience cases. God is faithful and He blesses the obedient ones and the disobedient people will suffer.

Joshua chapter 1 describes how God led Joshua and assured him that God is with him, and so be strong and courageous. We focus on Joshua's leadership today.

**1) Follow****a. Who or What**

In order to lead successfully, one often has to follow someone and something. Political leaders have to follow the laws of the land and the specific criterion of assigned duties. Company managers have to follow the direction of upper management and board of directors. Parents have to follow their principles consistently to lead their children. Joshua, as well as each Christian, shall follow God and obey His teaching. Only depending on God that we can have true success. "No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them" (Joshua 1:5-6).

## **b. How**

Partial follow essentially equals to none. Breaking some portion of the law/rule is still a violation of the law. “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 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” (Joshua 1:7-8). This includes read & study, meditate & digest, and obey & act.

In corporate management, one needs to know the company direction well as well as to follow its policy and approach. In all matters in life, God’s principle has the top authority and thus one needs to know it well and acts on them.

## **2) Lead**

Joshua 1:10-18 is about the actual leading.

### **a. Concrete Plan**

A concrete plan is often needed in order to lead successfully. Joshua directed the team what to do in details. He flowed down the commands, required them to be prepared and has given a specific timeline. He delegated his followers, and assigned duties like who would go where and who would stay.

### **b. Mutual Support**

The people (tribes) identified in verse 12 were told to support the other group to conquer the land. These people that were settled on the east side of the Jordan river would help the army to conquer the west side (Numbers 32). Good leadership requires his/her team members to support each other. The same teaching appears in NT as in Gal. 6:2, I Cor. 12:25 and Phil. 2:4

### **c. Unity**

The tribes became to be united as they were supporting each other. A leader needs to ensure the team members are united in goal as well as actions in the overall plan. The following Bible verses are addressing the importance of unity: I Cor. 1:10, I Peter 3:8, Rom. 12:16, etc.

With following at the same time, leading involves specific plan such as what, when, who, where and how. Leader shall also ensure his/her members are united and are willing to support each other within the team.

Regardless you are a worker in the industry, a parent or a member in a Christian organization/church, the leadership skill from the first chapter of Joshua can apply to you. For Christians, we need to follow God as the top authority and His wisdom can help us to lead and be successful.