

## Hang Time in the Scriptures

Today's Reading  
Joshua 1:1-18



Joshua had served faithfully under Moses' capable leadership for more than 40 years. At times, he had been the "in charge" guy for a few specific tasks, but he had never been the "buck stops here" guy. Moses had always done that. But now Moses was gone. Joshua was to step into those huge shoes. The challenges must have seemed overwhelming. The eyes of millions now turned to Joshua for direction. A river separated these people from the land God had promised them centuries earlier. Enemies waited on the other side.

When the challenges are big, what do you do? Set the alarm earlier? Work harder? Go to bed later? Make phone calls to others who know more in order to ensure the right decisions? Access all of the right Internet sites that tell you what to do?

God's counsel to Joshua was to hang out with Him by spending time in the Word of God. You can benefit from that "hang time" at every point in your life...not only when life is demanding and stressful. But keep in mind, the Lord's counsel to Joshua will take you beyond the mindless reading of a few verses. You are to...

1. Obey it! God's purpose in giving His word is that we recognize the timeless nature of the truths and seek to apply them to our daily lives. He wants to keep us from even small detours ("to the right or to the left") from His plan.
2. Speak about it! As you incorporate the Word of God into your life, it should spill out in your speech. Even if such conversation may, at first, seem awkward, persist! The benefit you receive from it is priceless!
3. Meditate on it! Mull the Scriptures over in your mind. Make them the object of your concentrated focus. Carry a verse or passage in written form with you so that you can turn your attention to it often.

The benefits from this kind of hang time with God are appealing. They include prosperity and success from God's perspective! That's worth any sacrifice you might make.